

/ 2 *Elder*  
2048-182  
2-1 36

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

38

January 31st, 1929

3947

Subject: Current Events for the month of January.

To: A. C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D MAR 5 1929

- ✓ 1. On the 17th of January Colonel Jorge B. Crespo was named Director General of Army Aviation replacing Colonel Luis Cassinelli who has been placed on the list "Awaiting Orders". Colonel Crespo has been the Director General of Civil Aviation.
- ✓ 2. Dr. Salvador Bavestro has been appointed Director of Civil Aeronautical Service in Argentina.
- ✓ 3. The Minister of War, General Dellepiane who has been travelling in Cordoba for his health, has now returned to Buenos Aires and resumed his duties notwithstanding the rumours circulated with reference to his resignation.
- ✓ 4. Lt. Colonel Gregorio G. Salvatierra has been named Director of the School of Non-Commissioned Officers.
- ✓ 5. Colonel Francisco Reynolds has been appointed Director of the Military School and Lt. Colonel Alberto Lynch has been named Sub-Director.
- ✓ 6. General José E. Belloni, the ex Inspector General of the Army has been placed on the list "Awaiting Orders".
- ✓ 7. On January 16th General Severo Toranzo the Director of the Instituto Geográfico Militar was appointed Inspector General of the Army and President of the Classification Commission.
- ✓ 8. On January 19th General José Marcilese returned from Rosario where he has acted as Chief of the Military troops detached in Santa Fé on account of the Agrarian labour trouble. He has come to Buenos Aires to attend the Classification Commission of which he is a member.
- ✓ 9. General Elias Alvarez has been appointed Commander of the Second Division of the Army. His present post is Director General of Rifle and gymnasium.

Current Events  
January 1929  
-----

✓ 10. On January 4th Colonel Pedro Crosso Soto, was appointed Chief of the Office of the Minister of War.

✓ 11. The expenditure authorized in the present year's Budget for the Departments of War and Marine amounts to \$67,827,321.31 and \$46,823,365.15 m/n respectively. The expenditure of the War Department is distributed as follows: Ministry and large dependencies, \$6,038,022 m/n, divisions of the Army \$628,740 m/n; Army, \$32,768,380; Schools \$1,131,563; military justice \$21,888; War arsenals, \$7,814,580 m/n; Administration \$19,404,148.31 m/n. With respect to the Budget of last year, the expenditure of the War Department has been increased by \$5,868,268 m/n.

✓ 12. On January 26th there was launched in Cowes, England, the new Argentine destroyer "La Rioja". This is the 3rd and last one of this type being built for Argentina.

✓ 13. The Ministry of the Interior issued a decree on Jan. 5th appointing Lt. Colonel Vicente Cobas to the post of Commander of the Fire Brigade which has been vacant since Colonel Graneros was named Chief of Police on Oct. 12th last. By the same decree the Ministry appoints Major Luis Schepone as Second in Command of the Brigade, promoting him to the rank of Lt. Colonel.

✓ 14. On January 14th the concentration of the class of 1908 conscripts began all over the country. The number of citizens destined to the Army are 24,828; of these 4213 will be incorporated in the 1st Division; 6518 in the 2nd Division; 5276 in the 3rd Division; 5134 in the 4th Division and 3687 in the 5th Division of the Army.

✓ 15. The 83 Cadets stated in last Current Events to have graduated from the Military College have been assigned as follows: 40 to the Infantry Regiments; 3 to the Infantry Non Commissioned Officers School; 14 to the Cavalry Regiments; 1 to the Cavalry Non Commissioned Officers School; 8 to the Engineers Regiments; 1 to the Engineer Non Commissioned Officers School; 5 to the School of Communications.

✓ 16. The Argentine Aviators Lt. Claudio Mejia and Carlos Arzeno - mentioned in Current Events for the month of November - have purchased a plane with which they intend to make their flight from Buenos Aires to Seville about the time when the Exhibition there is inaugurated. The plane is equipped with a Wright 525 horsepower motor capable of carrying sufficient fuel for a 6,000 mile flight.

Current Events  
January 1929  
-----

It will be christened the "Siete Leguas" and is expected to be delivered to the fliers about February 15th. The machine is being purchased from the Bellanca Aeroplane Co. of Wilmington, Delaware. On February 1st, the Minister of War authorized Flight Lt. Claudio Mejia to fly from the United States to Buenos Aires, utilizing the Bellanca plane. The date of the projected flight has not yet been fixed.

✓ 17. Admiral Juan A. Martín who was appointed by the Minister of Marine to investigate the purchase of the transport "Patagonia" referred to in Current Events for the month of September 1928 has finished his study and presented his report to the Minister. The results of the investigation have been kept strictly in reserve.

✓ 18. On January 11th, Dr. Enrique Bermudez, the New Chilean Minister to Argentina, arrived in Buenos Aires.

✓ 19. Dr. A. Retschek, the new Austrian Minister to Argentina has arrived in Buenos Aires.

✓ 20. On January 23rd there arrived in Buenos Aires the Marqués de Aymerich, the new Spanish Military Attaché to Argentina.

✓ 21. On January 16th, Sr. Jorge Santos was appointed Portuguese Minister to Argentina.

✓ 22. Dr. Arturo Pinto Escalier, the new Bolivian Minister to Argentina is in Buenos Aires, and has made arrangements to present his credentials to President Irigoyen.

23. It has been stated that the Minister of Foreign Affairs contemplates the reorganization of the Argentine Diplomatic service. It is affirmed that the measure has become necessary as a consequence of the impending resignation of various diplomats who have attained the requisite age and years of service to qualify for retirement on pension. Among the new diplomats mentioned for nomination is Dr. Enrique Larrets who would take charge of the Embassy in Paris in the place of Engineer Federico Alvarez de Toledo, who will be transferred to Washington.

24. In view of the announcements made during the month by both factions of the Socialist party to the effect that they intended to hold public demonstrations in this city as a protest against the intervention of armed forces in the labour conflict in the Province of Santa Fé, the Chief of Police addressed a note to the Minister of the Interior asking his opinion on the matter. In reply the Minister stated that the National forces had not intervened in any conflict

Recent Events  
January 1929

their presence in Santa Fé responded to the purpose of guaranteeing the public order and the liberty to work, for which reason the Government cannot permit the holding of demonstrations to protest against the natural duties of the armed forces in a country. The Ministerial resolution was communicated by the Chief of Police to the two Socialist factions. Upon this refusal by the National authorities, legal proceedings were initiated by the interested parties to vindicate the right of public protest. Whilst the debate on the point of law was proceeding, the Socialists without previous permission having been accorded, held their meeting on Sunday 20th without any disturbance or incidents of any kind occurring except the breach of police regulations noted. No further action has been taken on this matter.

25. The Compagnie Generale Aeropostale has inaugurated a service of aerial transport of correspondence between Buenos Aires and Asunción, Paraguay. The service will consist of two avions which will leave from the Company's Aerodrome in General Pacheco.

26. At the beginning of January, the Tramway labourers in Rosario again declared a strike. The Company requested Federal protection from the National Government. A delegation of workers also interviewed the President and the matter was settled. However on the smallest pretext a few days later further trouble began and attacks on the company's property were resumed. This state of affairs still continues. The new Chief of Police of the city has declared that the Second City of the country is "Almost Bolshevik".

✓ 27. In San Juan the task of reorganizing the Government is progressing with difficulty. It has been reported that there is a deficit of 12 million pesos in the Treasury. The ex-Governor, Dr. Aldo Cantoni and the Ex Minister Sr. D. Vignoli have been detained charged with the missappropriation of funds. In the Bank of the province of San Juan there is a deficit of \$3,000,000 m/n and it has been decided that only the Bankruptcy court can settle affairs. 53 Police from the capital have been sent to San Juan to maintain order.

✓ 28. Trouble of the same kind continues in Mendoza, the ex Governor Dr. Alejandro Olfilia, who was taken into custody in connection with the missappropriation of several millions of pesos from public funds, has been committed for trial.

✓ 29. The Executive Power issued a decree on January 29th accepting the resignation of Sr. Antonio Moreno, Governor of Neuquen. It is affirmed that the National Government will order an investigation to be made in that territory, from which a number of irregularities are reported.

Recent Events  
January 1929  
-----

30. According to statistics published by the municipality 20,764 building permits were granted in the Capital during the year 1928.

31. The Ministry of Public Works has issued a decree signed by President Irigoyen authorizing the Central Argentine Railway to electrify the suburban lines between Retiro and Villa Ballester and the branch from Coghlan to the Tigre. The company has been ready to undertake this important work for some years but Government authorization has not been secured until now.

32. The Central Argentine Railroad has submitted a plan to the President of the Nation for extending and improving the services of the Railway. The project will involve an estimated expenditure of \$346,000,000 m/n. It is proposed to build 1,733 kilometers of new track. This will be reported in detail under proper heading.

33. The official inauguration of the Telephone Service of the Radio International between Buenos Aires and Paris, and between Buenos Aires and Switzerland, took place during the month.

34. Dr. Manuel J. Claps, administrator of the State Railways, has submitted a formal statement to the Ministry of Public Works in which he accuses his predecessor in the Alvear administration of having illegally purchased, 1,100 railway cars valued at \$4,350,000 from the Middletown Car Company and America Car and Foundry Export Company without asking for tenders or submitting the contracts to the national accountancy department. Three hundred and fifty of the coaches are stated to have been delivered.

35. The Budget in force makes provision for the payment of the services of interest and amortization of public debt of the country during the present year, which will entail an expenditure of \$216,661,015.99 m/n. Of the total, the sum of \$99,970,423.18 m/n is destined for the payment of the services of the external debt, and \$96,284,529.81 m/n for the services of the internal debt while the sum of \$20,400,000 m/n is set apart for the payment of the service of eventual debts that might be contracted during the year. During the past year the sum of \$201,756,189.99 m/n was included in the Budget for the payment of the services of the internal and external debts of the Republic.

36. The Department of Navigation and Ports of the Ministry of Public works spent more than \$48,000,000 in the construction and repair of docks and general maritime service in the course of 1928.

Current Events  
January 1929  
-----

This interesting fact was contained in a report submitted to Dr. Abalos, the head of the Ministry referred to, who stated that the funds still available for the continuance of the works during the current year amounted to more than \$32,000,000 m/n.

✓ 37. On January 17th the Argentine Government held up a shipment of 2000 cases of rifles which arrived in the Port of Santa Fe consigned to the Bolivian Government. The arms were shipped from Germany on board the s.s. Sachsenwald. Officially it was stated that this hold up was due to faulty documents. Reliable sources inform us it was released and forwarded to Bolivia later.

✓ 38. There is attached lists of Commercial and Government Aviation Fields in Bolivia. There is no civil aviation in Bolivia.

✓ 39. During the month there passed through Argentina on his way to Bolivia Sr. Ricardo Martinez Vargas, Bolivian Minister of War. During his stay in Buenos Aires he interviewed the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of War of Argentina.

40. The general opinion here is that eventually hostilities cannot be avoided between Bolivia and Paraguay.



E. C. Fleming  
Captain G.S.  
Military Attaché.

✓ *Elec. 1*  
*2042-122*  
*2-1 36*  
COMMERCIAL AVIATION IN BOLIVIA ✓

- a) Aviation Fields - Line Cochabamba-Santa Cruz; Cochabamba, Matarani, Mizque, Aiquile, Omeregue, Salpina, Totoro, Bulguina, El Palo, Vallegrande, Valle Abajo, Jorochito, Izozog, Santa Cruz, Line Santa Cruz-Fuente Suarez; San Jose de Chiquitos, Robore Puerto Suarez. Line Cochabamba-Trinidad: Totod Santos, Trinidad, Santa Ana. Total 20.

In the line from Trinidad to Riberalta there are hydroplane docking facilities in Trinidad, Villa Bella and Riberalta.

- b) Number of Planes - 3 aeroplanes Junkers F. 12 and 2 Hydroplanes Junkers F. 13; furthermore they have ordered 2 aeroplanes Junkers W. 34, 2 aeroplanes junkers W. 33 and one training aeroplane for preparation of pilots.
- c) Aviation Naptha. - 2,850 cases (10 gallons a case) of "WICO" ~~five~~ label, has been consumed during 1928, plus 2,000 gallons
- d) Projected Lines - Cochabamba - Sucre, Riberalta - Eurenabaque, La Paz - Arica, La Paz - Mollendo, Puerto Suarez - Rio Jandro.

Civil aviation does not exist and no international flights have included Bolivia with exception of a couple of flights from Buenos Aires to La Paz, such as flights of Doolittle and McMullen, Costes and Lebrich and Santalla and Luizage.

Dec 2

2048-192

1-1 36

GOVERNMENT AVIATION

- a) Aviation Fields - La Paz, Chua Apolo, Tipuani, Oruro, Uyuni, Potosi, Sucre, Villazon, Tarija, Villa Montes, Charagua, Yacuiba, Sasvedra, Concepcion, San Ignacio, San Miguel. Total 17
- b) Number of Planes - Detailed information can not be obtained but at present the number of planes is approximately 20
- c) Aviation Fuel - 250,000 liters of "Shell" in red drums has been consumed during 1927 and a similar amount during 1928.
- d) Lubricants - The type used is MobilOil "B"



AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

March 31st, 1929

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
M.L. INTEL. DIV.

APR 26

2048-182

38

1929

WAR DEPARTMENT

3977

Subject: Current Events for the month of March

To: The A. C. of S. G-2.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. APR 26 1929

1. On March 8th delegates of the Liga Patriotica Argentina in Santa Fé, addressed the Governing Council reporting that in that Province agitators had arrived from Buenos Aires and were organizing another movement among the harvest labourers employed in the maize crops. The Governing Council instructed the rural brigades established in these zones to take the necessary measures in order to counteract the anti-social propaganda of the agitators.
- ✓ 2. The disorganized state of the Government of Santa Fé and the serious situation created by general tram strikes, port strikes, etc. has finally prompted the President of the Nation to look seriously into the matter. Some daily papers report that the preliminary steps towards National Intervention in that Province have been taken; others state that the Province will not be intervened. As has been previously reported the Provincial Legislature was closed by the Governor in March of last year shortly after he took over the post. Since that date things have gone from bad to worse and though they have now reached a climax and the Provincial Government House is under police guard the entry of the legislators being prohibited, no one seems to know just how matters are going to be settled in the second most important Province of the Republic.
- ✓ 3. On March 10th a National Deputy and members of the Liberal Party of Corrientes arrived in the Capital for the purpose of petitioning the intervention of the National Government in the Province, with a view to reforming the legislature due to the adverse situation which is ruling.
4. Although representatives of the shipowners and the Federación Obrera Marítima are still negotiating a settlement of the wage question through the Minister of the Interior, a solution to the matter is still far from being found. In a interview with the Minister, a shipowner informed Dr. Gonzalez that only recently the company had increased the wages by almost 30 percent and called attention to the fact that the sailors of no other country

Current Events  
March 1929  
----

were receiving such high pay as the Argentines at the present time. Nevertheless he was disposed at a great financial sacrifice to improve still further the workers situation and would concede additional increases provided they were reasonable and not more than 15 or 20 per cent. It may be mentioned in this connection that the men are demanding an additional 60 percent.

5. On March 21st Dr. Carlos Washington Lencinas, former Governor of the Province of Mendoza, member of the National Senate and head of the political party bearing his name, was taken into custody on charges which have not been made public. He is being guarded by four firemen and a detachment of soldiers from the 16th Infantry Regiment.

6. On March 24th, the Federal Court ordered the immediate liberation of Dr. Federico Cantoni, Senator-elect for the Province of San Juan who was arrested in San Juan a few weeks ago by the National Interventor. The order is the outcome of an application of habeas corpus presented by Dr. Cantoni's lawyer.

A similar appeal was made on behalf of Dr. Alejandro Orfilia, the former Governor of the Province of Mendoza but was rejected by the Federal Court on the ground of incompetency.

7. During the past few months several shipments of gold have left the country, on March 21st the Banco Francés Italiano para la America del Sud, extracted the sum of 3,000,000 dollars and the Banco Alemán Transatlántico, one million. These are the largest sums which have been extracted from the Caja de Conversión since it was re-opened by President Alvear after having been closed by President Irigoyen during the first term of office. The sum of gold affected by Law No. 3871 which still remains in the Caja de Conversión amounts to \$484,768,640 gold.

8. During the month the Inland Revenue officers captured a cargo of smuggled silk which has been valued at \$55,200 m/n. The contrabandists were discovered on the River Plate while attempting to land the goods.

9. According to reports received by the Ministry of Public Works, during the month of February 120 ocean going vessels of 290,750 tons register entered the port of Rosario. During the same period 100 ocean going vessels and 216 coasters left the port.

Imports during the month in question rose to 89,054 tons of merchandise and exports to 358,606 tons most of the latter consisting of grain.

The Rosario Port Company collected \$426,841.41 gold in port dues.

Current Events  
March 1929  
---

10. The Minister of Public Works has submitted a plan to the President of the Nation for signature which comprises the Public Works to be carried out during 1929. The works detailed require the expenditure of \$100,000,000 m/n. It is proposed first to finish those works which already have been started, those which are considered most urgent and those which can be made use of independently by sections. As has been reported, the budget for 1929 has destined \$197,602,400 m/n for the Anex L, Public Works.

11. The Transradio Internacional has received authorization from the Government to reduce its tariff for transatlantic wireless telephone conversations, by thirty percent. It is now therefore possible to talk to Paris and other European capitals for from \$23 to \$25 per minute, a rate considerably cheaper than that prevailing between the United States and Great Britain.

12. According to a cable from London, the Compañia Argentina, de Navegación (Nicolás Mihanovich Ltda) has placed a contract with Harland and Wolff for the building of two motor ships of 1,500 tons displacement each. It is understood that the new ships are destined for the transport of passengers and cargo in the Paraná and Paraguay Rivers and that they will be ready for delivery by the end of the present year.

13. The third of the motor ferryboats built in Holland for the transport of passengers and vehicles across the Paraná has arrived in Port. It is fitted with two Diesel engines of 900 H.P., it has a displacement of 600 tons and capacity to transport 30 vehicles and 200 passengers.

14. The last two of the group of 18 floating wharves built for service at different ports on the Paraná River are nearing completion and will be ready for delivery before the end of next. They are being constructed in the Riachuelo shipyards. The 16 wharves already in service are giving excellent results since they greatly facilitate loading and discharging operations at numerous small river ports where the construction of permanent works would have entailed an expenditure out of all proportion to the limited commercial activities of the respective localities. The total cost of the 18 floating wharves will amount to approximately \$6,800,000 whereas the construction of permanent wharves and installations at the different small ports would have entailed an outlay of four or five times the sum. In view of the excellent results being obtained with the floating wharves in the Paraná River, the Board of Navigation and Ports proposes to have similar wharves built for use at three or four small ports of the Uruguay River whose importance does not as yet justify the construction of costly permanent installations.

Current Events  
March 1929  
-----

15. On March 16 the Director General of Railways presented a report to the Minister of Public Works counselling the early resumption of work on the construction of the State line from Salta to Chile. The Director-General who just returned from a visit to the zone which will be served by the line stated that there is nearly three-quarters of a million pesos worth of material accumulated along the route, and that the continuance of the project gives 4,000 men steady employment during four years. On March 26th the Executive Power authorized by Cabinet Agreement the expenditure of \$18,900.250 to be spent on the construction of this line and decreed that \$1,000,000 m/n should be handed monthly to the State Railway.

✓ 16. A decree was signed by the President of the Republic on March 29th which empowered the Minister of Foreign Affairs to pay, in quotas \$78,700 m/n as the contributions of the Argentine Government to the Brussels Convention, the Hague International Court of Arbitration, the Pan-American Union, and the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.

✓ 17. On March 29th there arrived in Buenos Aires the Spanish General Don José Millán Astray on a visit to Argentina. He is a guest of the Asociación Patriótica Española and has been received very enthusiastically in Buenos Aires.

✓ 18. On March 28th there arrived in Buenos Aires the Chief of Staff of the Peruvian Army, General Cesar Landázuri on a visit of courtesy to Argentina. He has been received quite enthusiastically in Buenos Aires.

✓ 19. On March 12th there arrived in Buenos Aires General Wilhelm Heye one of the German General Staff during the European War. After a short stay in Buenos Aires he proceeded to Chile having been specially invited by General Ibañez's Government to be present at the manoeuvres. He will return to Buenos Aires where there will be held several official receptions to welcome him and the other foreign Army Officers visiting Argentina at this time.

20. Count E. de la Vaulx, President of the Federación Aeronautica Internacional, who has been visiting Argentina, left Buenos Aires for Montevideo on March 21.

✓ 21. Dr. José Rodríguez Dos Santos, the new Minister of Portugal to Argentina was received by the President of the Republic on March 13th.

Current Events  
March 1929  
-----

✓ 22. The Argentine Minister to Holland, Dr. Felipe Espil, has tendered his resignation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. No reason has been given for his resignation.

✓ 23. General Dellegiane, the Minister of War has resumed his duties. His health is failing and it is not likely that he will be able to continue them for very long.

✓ 24. A Presidential decree signed on March 18th divided the Argentine coast into three naval regions and one command. It is understood that the decree was the outcome of a lengthy study relating to the adequate naval vigilance of Argentina's long maritime and fluvial coast line, and that the division was made with due consideration to the lending of aid to the mercantile marine as well as the question of defence. A detailed report on this subject will be made under proper heading.

✓ 25. The Argentine naval transport Bahia Blanca sailed for London at the beginning of March with crews aboard for the new naval craft now being constructed for Argentina in British yards. The vessels in question being the torpedo-boat destroyers Mendoza, Tucuman and La Rioja. In addition to crews for these ships the transport was taking over a ship's company for the General Belgrano, which has been undergoing an extensive re-fit in an Italian dockyard. However on the voyage the transport sustained the breakage of a cylinder off Bahia, Brazil. This damage was repaired and the vessel was able to resume her journey to Europe after considerable delay.

✓ 26. In the beginning of next month the Argentine training ship Presidente Sarmiento will start on a new voyage of practical instruction for the cadets who have completed their studies in the Naval School. The voyage will have the following itinerary: Buenos Aires, Madryn, Comodoro Rivadavia, Ushuaia, Magallanes, Talcahuano, Callao, Guayaquil, Buena Ventura, Panama, Balboa, Santiago de Cuba, Azores, San Sebastian, Hamburg, Stockholm, Christiania, Oslo, Antwerp, Seville, Santos and Buenos Aires. The voyage will last about nine months and the distance to be covered will be approximately 29,000 miles.

✓ 27. The contract made for the purchase of a Bellanca plane referred to in previous Current Events, has been cancelled due to difficulties found by Lt. Claudio A. Mejia during the trials.

✓ 28. According to press reports the famous mono-

Current Events  
March 1929  
---

plane, Friendship, the tri-motored Fokker in which the aviatrix Earhart and Wilmer Stultz flew from Old Orchard to Southampton last year, has been sold to the Argentine aviators Mejia and Arzenc for use in the projected Buenos Aires-Seville flight. The monoplane, which was bought by the New York sportsman Donald Woodward after its trans-atlantic flight, when it was equipped with pontoons, will now be equipped with land gear and put on exhibition at Buffalo. It is ready for immediate flying and may be flown to Buenos Aires in April.

✓ 29. The final tests and flying trials of the Southampton, the flying boat constructed to the order of the Argentine Government in Southampton, were satisfactorily concluded on March 16th under the supervision of Commander Zar and Lt. Portillo. Eight machines are in course of construction, all of which will be dismantled after undergoing their trials, and then be shipped to Argentina.

✓ 30. A decree signed by the President of the Republic on March 13th authorized Colonel E. Colombo, formerly of the Italian Army to establish a regular air mail and passenger service between Buenos Aires and Montevideo. The tariff for letters sent by this means will be 10 cents per ten grams over the usual charge.

31. On March 23rd there was inaugurated the Air mail service between Buenos Aires and Asunción Paraguay. The air service between these two capitals has been running regularly for two months but the National Government has only just authorized them to carry mail.

32. Due to the Yellow Fever which exists in Brazil, the Argentine Government during the month has taken serious precautions, making regulations for all incoming ships calling at Rio, Santos, Pernambuco, Para and Victoria. The authorities of the National Health Department have imposed the following measures against contagion; no ship that calls at the above mentioned ports will be allowed to enter Buenos Aires until after a lapse of six days from its departure from the Brazilian Ports. In consequence over twenty ships with some 2,000 passengers on board are detained in the roads awaiting the lapse of the quarantine. Further regulations rule that all vessels en-route to Argentina's ports other than Buenos Aires, must come to Buenos Aires first for revision by the sanitary authorities. If they are found "all clear" where yellow fever symptoms are concerned, they will be given pratique for entry into Bahia Blanca, La Plata or wherever else they may be destined for. The quarantine period for such vessels will be the same as for those destined direct for Buenos Aires, that is to say six full days with a sani-

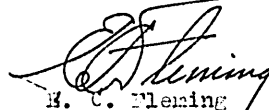
Current Events  
March 1949  
----

tary officer aboard, or in the outer roads. In order to overcome the long quarantine, practically all companies are taking Argentine health officials to Rio where they board the South bound vessels. In this way the boats are only held up in the port of Buenos Aires three days. They are not holding up the mails now though they did at first. These regulations are costing shipping companies, hotels and commercial houses hundreds of thousands of dollars, the packing industry is suffering especially.

One of the good results has been the demonstration on the part of the port officials and workers that they can turn out the work when it is imperative. Vessels that have formerly taken ten days to unload and reload are now coming into port and clearing again from 48 to 72 hours.

33. Several cases of bubonic plague have been discovered in Montevideo and every precaution is being taken to avoid the spreading of the plague. The health authorities in Montevideo maintain that they are the result of contagion from articles brought from Rosario, where 16 cases of plague have been treated in the port, eight of which have proved fatal. The port authorities have cooperated with the health authorities of the city in a campaign for the stamping out of the bubonic plague.

34. The director of the Military Aviation School in Montevideo Commander Cesar Berisso started on his flight from Montevideo to New York of March 17th. He was obliged to land in Buenos Aires due to motor trouble. He resumed his voyage on March 21st making a non stop flight to Santiago de Chile from where he flew to Coquimbo, Taltal, Tocopilla, Mollendo, Lomas, Lima, Trujillo, Paita and Guayquil. During his flight to Tuzco his plane caught fire and he descended in a river. Neither pilots sustained injuries but the plane was completely destroyed. The mechanic was injured but not seriously and they expect him to be about soon.

  
H. C. Fleming  
Captain, G.S.  
Military Attaché.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

February 28th, 1929

2048-182

2-1

37

3960

Subject: Current Events for the month of February

To: A. C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED 62 W. O. APR 1 1929

1. On February 7th Professor Milorad Krasnitsky, Professor of International Law at the Zagreb University, was appointed Yugoslav Minister to Argentina.

2. In the near future it is stated that there will be appointed a representative of the Union of South Africa in Buenos Aires.

3. Sr. Carlos J. Botto has been appointed to the post of Director of the Bank of the Nation by President Irigoyen. During the month Dr. Manuel B. Anchorena, the Director resigned; also Engineer Luis Duhau of the Board of Directors resigned.

4. Delegates of the Liga Patriótica Argentina have called the attention of the Government Council to the damage done to the most important industries in the country by the heavy taxes imposed by several provinces on goods imported from other states, in direct contradiction with the principles of the National Constitution. This interprovincial taxation has been going from bad to worse and now threatens to ruin several industries.

5. It has just been ruled by the State Attorney that persons divorced abroad may not marry again in Argentina.

6. On February 21st the British Cruiser, H.M.S. Despatch, arrived in Bahia Blanca on an official visit to Argentina.

7. On February 6th there arrived in Buenos Aires the Conde Enrique de la Vaulz, President of the International Aeronautic Federation. He was very cordially received by the Directors of the Military and Civil Aviation Departments here. Count de la Vaulz has been making a tour of the South American Republics with a view to closer connections between South American countries and France and Europe in general. He is also studying the landing facilities.



Current Events  
February 1929  
-----

ties and general aeronautical conditions. In Argentina he is making tours by airplane over the different parts of the country.

✓ 8. On February 7th there arrived in Buenos Aires the training ship "Sarmiento" having finished its 28th voyage of instruction.

✓ 9. On February 20th the Argentine Destroyer, Mendoza leader of the flotilla which has just been constructed for Argentina, set a world record for her class in the trials attaining a speed of 40 knots over a mile course.

✓ 10. It is stated that the health of the Minister of War, General Dellepiane is again failing and that he is suffering from a malady from which he is not expected to recover. His duties are being carried out by Dr. Gonzalez Minister of the Interior. It is expected that the Minister of War may retire from his post.

✓ 11. Death came suddenly to Captain de Fragata Jorge Games. Captain Games commanded the cruiser "Ciudad de Buenos Aires" which carried Mr. and Mrs Hoover from Buenos Aires to Montevideo. Captain Games was at one time Naval Attache in London.

12. Lt. Colonel Cesaro Berisso, A.C., of the Uruguayan Army has not yet completed his plans so as to announce when he will take off on his flight to the United States.

✓ 13. General Hays, Commander in Chief of the German Army, sailed from Germany on February 22 on board the Cap Arcona on a visit to Argentina and Brazil.

14. The Transradio International which recently established regular telephonic service between Buenos Aires Germany, France and Switzerland has now extended its activities to Holland, Belgium and Norway.

15. The extensive smuggling of silk is continued. It is being aided by certain unethical merchants and the better merchants state they cannot continue in the silk business unless some action is taken.

16. The Pacific Railway Company has requested authorization by the Government to construct a new branch of 150 kilometers. This line will start from Arribeños station and will be built Westward.

17. The news that the Government had ordered the Rosario Port Company to return to its normal tariffs, and

Current Events  
February 1929  
-----

declared that all excess dues collected after the disappearance of the exceptional circumstances in which they were authorized, were illegal, has given rise to much satisfaction in shipping and commercial circles, where, for years past, there have been bitter complaints against the expense of operating in the second city's port.

The decree ordering the reduction which was signed by the President of February 18th, calls attention to the fact that the company was authorized to raise the dues because of heavy deficits shown in its balance sheets during a long period. But, according to the financial report of the undertaking for that year, the accumulated deficit was wiped off by the end of 1924, so that, from then onwards, the company had not further right to continue to apply the increased rates.

It is believed that in the course of the next few weeks many shipping and commercial firms will lodge claims with the company for the return of the sums they have been overcharged since 1924.

On February 22nd the Government took a further step in the matter of Rosario port dues when a decree was issued establishing that the charges for entry, wharfage, traction and storage should be those approved by the State in May of 1911.

18. In the Province of San Juan the reorganization of the Government is proving a difficult task. On February 26th, Dr. Aldo Cantoni, the former Governor of the Province who has been in custody for some time past in connection with alleged frauds involving more than \$15,000,000 m/n narrowly escaped being lynched on leaving the San Juan Criminal Courts. He received a bullet wound which necessitated his immediate removal to a Hospital.

19. Further frauds are coming to light day by day in Mendoza. A Telegram from that Province stated that the frauds committed by the members of the late Administration in the Credito Público Department, involved from 10 to 15 million pesos. Another telegram states that two bankrupt business men who had robbed their creditors of nearly 1,600,000 pesos were taken into custody when attempting to leave the Province.

20. The Government of the Province of Sta. Fé is totally disorganized and it is maintained that Dr. Irigoyen will name a Federal Interventor to re-establish peace and safety in that prosperous province where disorder and violence have prevailed for so long. Strikes in the city of Rosario still persist.

Current Events  
February 1929  
-----

21. Strike agitation has been growing daily and the plan of the strikers we are informed is to create a succession of disturbances culminating in a great general strike.

22. During the month the following labour troubles took place:

The "Sociedad de Resistencia de Obreros del Puerto de la Capital" a "gremio" affiliated to the "Federación Obrera Marítima" went on strike for 48 hours on February 20th. They demand higher wages for the stevedores and Port workers and have put their case before the Minister of the Interior. The shipping Representatives interviewed the President relative to the increased salary demanded which they hold is excessive and would create great obstacles to the normal development of the coastwise shipping trade. This viewpoint is corroborated in the memorandum presented to the Minister of the Interior, in which the companies however, express their willingness to discuss more reasonable proposals.

A meeting was also held by the Federation obrera Marítima which was attended by 3000 people; the object of this meeting was to consider the attitude to be adopted if the shipping Companies refused the conditions presented them by the workers. After a lengthy debate it was decided that the F.O.M. would proclaim a General strike if the Companies do not give a favorable reply to their list of conditions within the term of 48 hours from the moment it was presented.

However the "Gremios" or Unions have been suffering several serious setbacks because of the change in attitude of the administration, and the success of the Officials of the U.R.T. & T. Co. recently reported on; They therefore were obliged to send a delegation to the Minister of the Interior to inform him that the time limit of 48 hours, mentioned above, set by the "Gremio" for the shipping companies, was not for the latter to accede to the demands for improvements but to enter into negotiations for a settlement of the conflict on the basis of the improvements solicited. They stated furthermore, that the "gremio" felt satisfied with the attitude of the shipping companies on deciding to consider their list of conditions within the stipulated time limit.

On February 20 the Union of Chauffeurs decided to proclaim a strike of 24 hours for the conductors of lorries in the Zone of the Port.

The tramway workers in the Capital are also seeking an interview with the President to present a petition asking for allround increases in salaries, improved pension regulations etc.

23. There is a movement on foot in the city to Boycot

Current Events  
February 1929  
-----

all General Motors cars. This is organized by a Union of Taxi Chauffeurs. It is stated that one man driving a General Motors car was attacked and maltreated and his car burned.

24. A fresh clamour for the nationalization of industries is being made. During the last few days of the month the city has been placarded with posters. However the cry is receiving plenty of echo and it is not very probable that any actual steps toward nationalization will be taken in the near future.

25. Extensive floods are taking place in the Parana and Paraguay Rivers. According to a Report made to the Minister of Public Works these floods will attain heights little inferior to those attained during the great floods of 1912. The damage being done in the North is considerable. It is also stated that in Bolivia the valleys of the Republic from Cochabamba to Potosi and the Borders of Brazil are being completely inundated owing to the rapid rise of the Paraguay river and its tributaries.

✓ 26. The Paraguayan Press is still devoting long paragraphs and editorials insisting that the Bolivian troops are manoeuvring in the Chaco District despite the Conciliation Conference in Washington.

✓ 27. Captain Don Aparicio Figari who was killed on the 14th of December in the Fort Mariscal Lopez in Paraguay during an attack by the Bolivian troops, has been made a National Hero by his country. His body was brought to Asuncion and buried with extensive military honors on February 24. The Paraguayan newspapers have devoted much space to the ceremony of his burial. The circumstances of his death are not related.

✓ 28. It is stated in a Paraguayan newspaper that the Bolivian Government have obtained a loan of 10,000,000 dollars in London which has been entirely passed over to the Vicker firm. Also that Bolivia will receive from Czechoslovakia 50,000 rifles and bombs from Belgium and England.

29. The following statement was published in the Paraguayan newspaper "El Diario", relative to the exchange of Prisoners between Paraguay and Bolivia:

"The exchange of Prisoners which should have taken place on the 12th of next month has been postponed. The sudden cause of this postponement is due to the absence of a Paraguayan soldier, Juan D. Martinez from the Bolivian list sent to our Government through the State Department

Current Events  
February 1929  
-----

in Washington. Martinez was taken prisoner on the night of the 14th of December on the road from Valois Nivarola to General Genes together with Lt. Jose Conigliaro.

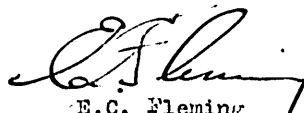
His name figures on the list of Captain Castagnino, among the Paraguayan soldiers captured by the Bolivians.

The absence of his name from the Bolivian list must therefore be explained to our Chancery.

Until the whereabouts or fate of this prisoner is discovered the exchange has been suspended.

The attitude of our Government could not have been more just and it is hoped that the incident which has caused the delay in this matter will be happily settled in the near future.

30. A letter received this date from Mr. George L. Kreeck, United States Minister in Paraguay, states that things are somewhat quieter in Paraguay.

  
E.C. Fleming  
Captain, G.S.  
Military Attaché.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

April 30th, 1929

Office of the  
Military Attache  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

MAY 24

2088-182

39

6001

WAR DEPARTMENT

3990

Subject: Current Events for the month of April

To: A. C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED MAY 23 1929

1. Referring to Paragraph No 24, Current Events for January 1929, the result of the legal proceedings, initiated by the Socialist party upon the refusal of the National authorities to allow them to gather, was given in a sentence passed by the Criminal Chamber, establishing that the President of the Republic had the power to prohibit popular gatherings or meetings when they threatened public order.

2. The strike of the grain classifiers and kindred groups of the port of Santa Fe proved so harmful to the interests of the exporting firms and the shipping companies that the Government of the Province called a meeting of representatives of the strikers and of those exporters with a view to bringing about a settlement of the conflict; as no agreement could be arrived at owing to the excessive demands of the classifiers, the matter was placed in the hands of the National authorities and the President of the Republic appointed the administrator of the State Railways, Sr. Manuel J. Claps, who after being for some days in Santa Fe returned to Buenos Aires and reported to the President that a solution had been reached, though with some difficulty owing to the large demands of the strikers, & that the workers had resumed their duties having arrived at a settlement with all the grain firms except two or three who had not accepted the conditions proposed by Sr. Claps.

3. During the month the Chief of Police circularized the Comisarios of the different sections of the Capital instructing them to adopt measures for the immediate destruction of the posters that are being set up in the streets and boardings inciting the boycott of General Motors Automobiles.

The posters referred to contain threats against the conductors and passengers of the cars concerned, for which reason the Chief has ordered the arrest of the bill-stickers and others engaged in the propaganda in question.

4. Basing its action on "Institutional instead of Constitutional Government and widespread corruption" the Cabinet on April 19th decreed Federal Intervention in the Province of Santa Fe, at the same time naming Dr. Lisandro

Indit in M.A. & L.A.  
Solutions

Current Events  
April 1929

--

Salas, Federal Commissioner to carry out the terms of the decision. The decree declared that the present legislative conflict in the Province had impeded altogether the proper functioning of the offices of the State while wholesale sacking of the public coffers had resulted in the loss of goodwill of the people. It added that its decisions in all matters lacked Constitutional validity. It further asserted that the Legislative Power for years past had not fulfilled its proper functions thus permitting the development of the situation of absolute institutionalism.

5. During the month there was published a statement of the financial situation of the city of Santa Fé. The adverse balance shown amounts to 16,865,225.59 pesos, distributed in the following manner. Consolidated floating debt 657,020.12 pesos. Non-consolidated floating debt 4,428,523.47 pesos. Mortgage debt 304,408.22 pesos. Debts of order 23,405.41 pesos. Consolidated internal debt 1,874,223.76 pesos. Foreign consolidated debt 8,035.466 and special debts 1,542.178.61 pesos. These figures are to the end of February 1929.

✓ 6. On April 25th, the President of the Republic signed a decree whereby the Executive Power declared the Province of Corrientes under Federal Intervention to the effect of re-organizing its Executive, Legislative and Judicial Powers. Dr. Gilberto Miguez of the Forum of the Province of Buenos Aires has been appointed Federal Commissioner. The intervention has been the outcome of repeated requests by the Unión Cívica Radical Personalista party of that province and by one fraction of the Liberal Party and Members of the Superior Tribunal of Justice of that Province.

Several newspapers have published editorials stating that there is absolutely no justification whatsoever for this decree which has been issued within four days of the date upon which Congress should be opened and that it is nothing else but another attack against Federalism, against the National Constitution, and the rights of the Chamber to whose consideration should be submitted all questions of intervention.

✓ 7. There is also talk of intervention in the province of Entre Rios and according to the press if the Government is not intervened now it will be in October after Congress has risen. The reasons for the intervention have not been stated.

8. After being bandied about from court to court and from judge to judge, the writ of habeas corpus sought in favour of Dr. Carlos Washington Lencinas, former Governor of the Province of Mendoza who had been arrested in connection with all kinds of frauds in that province, was granted by

Current Events  
April 1929  
-----

the Federal Chamber on April the 7th and he was released. In acceding to the petition, the Chamber admitted the gravity of the charges pending against the accused but called attention to the fact that being a National Legislator Dr. Lencinas's right to immunity from arrest could only be nullified by Congress itself.

The Chamber also considered that the efforts of the prosecution to oppose the issue of the writ must fail because it had not been proved - as was asserted - that Dr. Lencinas was "caught in the act" of committing the criminal offences alleged against him.

9. The Senate and the Chamber of Deputies should, according to provisions of the National constitution, hold their preparatory sessions before the end of the month in order to be duly constituted by the 1st of May, the date upon which the inauguration of the ordinary sessions, should take place. According to its internal regulations, the Chamber of Deputies should have held its preparatory session on the 26th inst. However they were not able to gather a quorum on that date and failed to do so yet. The preparatory session of the Senate which was to have taken place on the same date also failed for want of a quorum, only 13 members putting in an appearance.

✓ 10. On April 17th, General Cesar Landazuri, Peruvian General visiting Argentina, left Buenos Aires to return to his country.

✓ 11. On April 14th the training ship Presidente Sarmiento left on its 29th voyage of instruction, taking on board the cadets who have completed their course of studies at the Naval School.

12. During the month the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a decree whereby the Argentine Government accepts the invitation of the British Government to take part in the 5th Military Medical Congress to be held in London in May 1929. Dr. Ricardo Sarmiento Laspiur who is at present en route for Europe has been appointed to represent the Argentine Government at the Congress referred to.

✓ 13. On April 18th the Executive Power issued a decree approving the Peace Organization of the Army and its dependencies; in accordance with the plan submitted by the Minister of War. By this decree the 4th Group of Observation is abolished from Mendoza and the Engineer's corps are modified. A detailed report on this subject will be made under proper heading.

✓ 14. The Ministry of War has approved the concession for the construction of various buildings in the factory of Aero-



Current Events  
April 1929  
--

roplanes in Cordoba. The cost of the buildings which have been planned by Engineer F.A. Soldano are estimated at the sum of 1,218,310 pesos.

✓ 15. During the month two Argentine Army officers, Lt. Edmondo Sustaita and Lt. Heraclio Ruival, beat the South American record Aviation, flying 2,000 kilometers in 14 hours in a non stop flight from El Palomar, Buenos Aires to Neuquen and back to Buenos Aires. The Airplane used was a Breguet 19.

✓ 16. On April 25th, the cruiser Buenos Aires, left for Havana with a special Embassy that will represent the Argentine Government at the act of the assumption of the Presidency of Cuba, by General Machado for a second term. The Embassy is presided over by Admiral Juan. A. Martín.

✓ 17. Mr. Georg Achates Gripenberg, Chargé d'Affaires of Finland in Madrid, has been named Minister to Argentina.

✓ 18. Major Fredric Hausler has been appointed Military Attaché to the Argentine Embassy in Germany.

✓ 19. Lt. Colonel Luis S. Latorre has been appointed Argentine Military Attaché to Paraguay.

✓ 20. Mayor Alberto Gilber, has been appointed Argentine Military Attaché to the Embassy in Chile.

✓ 21. Major Ikaku Shimono has been appointed Japanese Military Attaché to the Argentine replacing Major Yoshio Inouye who was drowned at the sinking of the "Vestris".

22. On April 17th there left Buenos Aires for Europe the Argentine delegates to the Seville Exposition. Dr. Enrique Larreta is Chief of the Mission.

23. Dr. Roberto Koch representing the Guaranty Trust Company of New York and Mr. Jacob Saslavsky of Luis Dreyfus and Company, the grain exports and financiers, called upon President Irigoyen on April 13th for the purpose of offering to lend the State money on terms the nature of which has been described officially as "very favourable". In the course of the interview Sr. Irigoyen indicated that Argentina was not thinking of raising an outside loan for the time being, but that when it became necessary to do so the offer, for which he was obliged would receive due consideration.

✓ 24. An oil tanker built for the Argentine Government by a Brazilian shipyard was formally delivered in the outer roads on April 18th. The vessel which is fitted with 538 horse-power Diesel engines has a carrying capacity of 750 cubic metres and it will be tried out by the Ministry of

Current Events  
April 1929  
-----

Public Works with the distribution of a cargo of fuel oil among a number of Government craft now stationed at Punta Indio. The new tanker, which has cost \$340,000 was built by the Compañia de Navegacao Costeira do Brazil.

25. The Direction-General of Navigation and Ports is steadily substituting the hydraulically-operated gear in the Port with electrically driven installations, the change-over of twenty-seven cranes in Docks 1 and 2 having been completed. In the course of the coming weeks the ports authority hopes to instal another 36 electric cranes for use in the loading and discharging of steamers.

26. The Ministry of Public Works has authorized the Entre Rios Railway Company to open provisionally to the public service the new station which it has erected on the South bank of the Riachuelo River. The new station has cost \$3,000,000, m/n and as has been previously reported its principal object is to afford livestock breeders and agriculturists in the district served by the system, better and more direct facilities for marketing their produce. This will be brought about by ferrying the trains down the river right into the port of Buenos Aires.

27. The Board of Navigation and Ports received a communication yesterday from the representative of the Esslingen Locomotive Works to the effect that the first of the three electric locomotives ordered for the railways of the Port of the Capital had been embarked from Germany to Buenos Aires. The locomotives referred to have been ordered on trial in view of the advantages claimed for them as compared with the steam engines at present in use at the Port. The cost of each engine is \$110,000 paper.

28. Colonel Berdeau, representative of important American shipyards whose visit is connected with the proposed establishment of a rapid service of ferry-boats between Buenos Aires, and Colonia, will interview the Minister of Public works on this matter in the near future. It is affirmed that the scheme is already well matured and that the ferry-boats to be put on the service will have a capacity for the transport of a large number of passenger and vehicles. The ferry-boats will ply in combination with a service of omnibuses which will be established between Colonia and Montevideo which will enable travellers to make the trip between Buenos Aires and the Uruguayan Capital in less than 5 hours. We have been unable to get any information about Colonel Berdeau. He uses the title, Colonel continually. He appears to be a promoter and speculator in numerous business


Current Events  
April 1929  
-----

ventures. He has been here about two months.

✓ 29. On April 24th, the Senate of the Republic of Bolivia approved the boundary treaty that was signed in La Paz by the Argentine Minister Dr. Horacio Carillo and the Councillor of Bolivia, Don Eduardo Diez de Medina, on the 9th of July 1925.

30. On April 1st the President of Paraguay, Dr. Guggiari opened Congress. His message detailed the political, Economical, and general situation of the Republic with a minute description of the present standing and the antecedents of the boundary question between Paraguay and Bolivia. There is enclosed a translation of an editorial published in "La Prensa" on the part of Dr. Guggiari's Message to Congress which referred to Paraguay's Foreign Policy.

✓ 31. A cable from London published in the press on April 9th stated that the War Office had contracted for a million tons of canned beef from Paraguay. Australia hitherto had supplied the War Office demands in this line.

  
E. C. Fleming  
Captain G.S.  
Military Attaché.

Enclosed: 1 Translation.

TRANSLATION

PARAGUAY'S FOREIGN POLICY

2-1 2048-182  
39  
7  
("La Prensa" April 6th, 1929)

The President of Paraguay at the re-opening of the Parliament of the Republic, which took place in Asunción on the first day of the present month, expressed in the message which he read on that occasion, the opinion prevailing in the country with regard to the question that had arisen between the latter and Bolivia, concerning the matter of boundaries and the need that the nations should settle their disputes through the medium of Arbitration.

He observed that the plan of action which the Government, in the confidence that a propitious period of peace lay before the country, had proposed to embark upon could not be carried out in its entirety owing to the frontier incident that had occurred in December last.

Thus it was that the attention of the Government was forcibly diverted almost exclusively to the problems relating to the national defence. The international policy of Paraguay absorbed, in short, the thoughts and efforts of that country's Public Administration.

The war cloud overshadowed the Republic and prevented the realisation of the proposed schemes which had been designed to settle numerous questions connected with economic social and political problems and to promote agricultural and industrial development and all the productive activities which form the Nation's chief sources of wealth.

If the mere prospect of an outbreak of war is sufficient to paralyze the agricultural activities - that is to say the work of sowing or reaping - through the calling up of the recruits, the fall in the exchange rates, the contracting of loans, the slump in trade, etc., war itself would aggravate these evils to an extent that only those who have been face to face with the reality and in a position to note its effects could possibly appreciate.

Hence it is that the pacific attitude of Paraguay has won for it general sympathy throughout America. President Guggiari spoke truly indeed when he declared in his message that the conciliatory spirit displayed by his country had saved two nations from a grave crisis, and that they had no cause to repent of such conduct since "far from detracting from their dignity it had enhanced it, by attracting to them the unanimous applause and moral support of the other nations. To-day it is more obvious than ever that the international community of feeling and interests and the profound legal sense of the nations are altogether opposed to violent methods."

The dispute over a strip of the Chaco is an old one and various conferences have been held in Buenos Aires with regard to it between representatives of Paraguay and Bolivia without any result being arrived at in the shape of a definite settlement of the vexatious boundary question. The war which was on the verge of breaking out in December would have been a bad one, since the object of the combatants would have been to gain by force possession of the territory in dispute.

Hence the truth of the assertion contained in the above-mentioned message to the effect that war never creates a stable situation as not being an expression of justice, it brings with it nothing but "a train of hatreds and a keen desire for vengeance". Such indeed is the lesson taught by history and the case of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine afford an instructive example of this.

The Argentine Republic which has had boundary questions with all the frontier nations, has always preserved a pacific attitude and submitted the points at issue to the decision of arbitration.

It is beyond dispute that in the eyes of modern international law and the new conscience on such matters which is gradually gaining ground with mankind, "Victory does no confer rights." The wars of conquest are viewed now-a-days with general repudiation and only those are regarded as justifiable that are undertaken in self-defence against uncalled-for aggression.

Arbitration is the resource to which the nations and the governments should appeal, <sup>as</sup> only right can give lasting solutions. In the new lands of America "war", as Alberdi said, "is a crime".

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

May 31st, 1929

1 Ede  
2  
2-1 2048-182  
LD  
2)

4001

Subject: Current Events for the month of May

To: A. C. of S. G-2.

RECEIVED 62 W. D. JUL 9 1929

1. Congress did not open on the 1st of May according to the rules of the National Constitution. The National Senate and Chamber of Deputies were for a long time unable to gather a quorum to hold their respective preparatory sessions. After numerous unsuccessful attempts it was resolved to publish the names of the absentees in the columns of the press; this having no effect upon the members, later it was decided to compel recalcitrant members to attend by the public force, to which effect the President of the Chamber of Deputies telegraphed the Governors and Interventors of the Provinces the names of the absentees and instructions to have them detained and sent under custody to the Federal Capital. Lastly a fine of \$100 m/n was imposed upon each Senator absent from the house on May 12th if no quorum were obtained. After this last effort, on May 14th the Senate at length after five fruitless attempts at last succeeded in gathering the necessary number of members to constitute a quorum and held its first preparatory session during which the authorities were elected, Mr. Etchevehere being named President and Sr. Vidal, Vice-President.

Notwithstanding the compulsory measures, the Chamber of Deputies could not gather a quorum until May 21st after nine fruitless attempts to hold its first preparatory session. On May 21st the only business transacted was to name the authorities, Dr. Andrés Ferreyra being re-elected President, Dr. Jorge Raul Rodriguez, Vice-president and Dr. Francisco Emparanza re-elected Second Vice President.

Following the decision of the First Magistrate, Congress was opened on May 24th. The President of the Republic did not attend the ceremony and a remarkable feature was the complete absence of formality with which the act was carried out. The Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Martinez in his capacity as President of the Senate presided. There is enclosed a copy of the very short Presidential message which was read. This message which lacks interest and gives no indication of Sr. Irigoyen's future intentions, caused much newspaper comment.

Current Events  
May 1929.-  
-----

- ✓2. Mayor Alberto Gilbert, the new Argentine Military Attaché to Chile, left Buenos Aires on May 15th.
- ✓3. On May 18th Major Ernesto Fantini Pertiné was named Military Attaché to the Argentine Embassy in France.
- ✓4. On May 28th Sr. Alberto-M. Candiotti who has recently been named Argentine Minister to Jugo-Slavakia and Greece, left Buenos Aires to take over his mission.
- ✓5. On May 24th there arrived in Buenos Aires from Europe General Manlio Schenone who has been recently named Paraguayan Minister of War. General Schenone landed in Buenos Aires and shortly afterwards proceeded to Asunción.
- ✓6. On May 22nd there arrived in Buenos Aires, Dr. Milorad Straznicki the Jugo-Slavakia Minister to Argentina.
- ✓7. Dr. Vicente Rivarola has been appointed Paraguayan Minister to Argentina.
- ✓8. The Executive Power issued a decree on May 3rd. through the medium of the Minister of War granting the retirement of General José F. Uriburu. General Uriburu retires from the Army with the immediate superior rank, viz., that of Lieutenant General. Please make a note of this on Who's Who card sent in September 26th, 1927.
9. On May 11th the pilots Mejia and Arzeno arrived from the United States where they purchased the plane "Friendship" for their flight to Seville. Due to unforeseen circumstances this flight could not be made in time to arrive for the inauguration of the Seville Exposition, therefore it has been decided that the flight will be made to Madrid. The date of departure has not yet been decided upon, but it will not be initiated before September.
- ✓10. On September 21st a 24 hour general strike was called by the "Federación Obrera Regional Argentina," for the purpose of registering its annual protest against the continued imprisonment of the Anarchist Simón Radowitzsky. As in previous years the strike was only partially observed.
11. For some time past there has been in the city of Buenos Aires and suburbs a bricklayers strike, and no satisfactory conclusions have as yet been arrived at. Work has been paralysed in many of the large buildings being constructed in the city.
12. Much damage is reported to have been done in the

Current Events  
May 1929  
-----

Province of Mendoza in the region of Villa Atuel by an earthquake which took place on May 29th; the volcano which burst into activity is still in eruption and the damage and loss of lives in the heart of the wine district in Mendoza is considerable.

13. Sanitary conditions in Buenos Aires are satisfactory; steamers calling at Brazilian ports still have to do quarantine before coming into Argentine ports. Since March 19th, the date on which the quarantine became compulsory until May 1st, 57 ships and 27,352 passengers have been in quarantine previous to entering Argentine ports.

14. There is a projected law drawn up in Uruguay to construct a bridge between Uruguay and Argentina over the River Uruguay at the height of Monte Caseros and Sta. Rosa del Cuareim. The matter as yet has not been put to the consideration of the Argentine Government but it is hoped in Uruguay that they will be able to arrive at satisfactory Diplomatic and financial agreements with Argentina.

15. On May 18th the Government published authorization for the execution of public works to a total estimated value of \$6,431,700 m/n. The works in question were sanctioned by Congress last year, and will be financed by special bond issues.

Of the sum referred to, \$2,000,000 m/n has been set aside for the macadamisation of the road from Rosario to Casilda, which forms part of the projected National radial road system, although it is anticipated that at least \$1,000,000 m/n more will be required for the termination of the work. The remainder of the \$6,431,700 m/n will be destined to the termination of port works at Diamante, Barranqueras and Formosa, thus completing the union of the Government-operated railway and the river transport services. It is understood that the port work referred to will be executed by the Direction-General of Navigation and Ports, but that the macadamisation of the Rosario-Casilda road will probably be let out on tender.

16. There has been inaugurated in Entre Rios a new highway which has been constructed from the city of Parana over a distance of nearly 400 kilometres to Chajari passing through La Paz.

17. The Executive Power issued a decree on May 18th



Current Events  
May 1929  
----

through the medium of the Ministry of Public Works entrusting to the Administration of the State Railways the representation of the Argentine interests in the Transradio and Central Paraguayan Railways before the respective Boards in London.

Up to the present these interests have been looked after by an official attached to the Argentine Embassy in London.

18. The Board of Navigation and Ports has inaugurated the lighthouse constructed at Miramar which is of the "A.G.A.", automatic type with a visibility of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

With the new lighthouse at Miramar the whole coast line from Mar del Plata to Quequen is perfectly lighted, which will be of great benefit to coastwise navigation.

19. On May 3rd the new tanker purchased by the Argentine Government from a Brazilian firm of shipbuilders was subjected to its official tests and declared to comply with the terms of the contract. The tests reported that the tanker not only fulfilled but also exceeded speed and similar specifications.

20. During the month two cargos of smuggled silk were seized by the Customs authorities. Both these cargos were valuable and the smugglers were arrested.

21. The fact that the gold continues to be extracted from the "Caja de Conversión" and shipped abroad is causing much newspaper comment. The gold reserve to date in the Caja de Conversión amounts to \$484,057,167 gold. This is about eight millions more than the sum which existed therein at the time when steps were taken to re-establish the normal regime of that Institution.

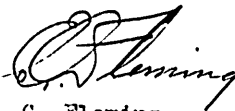
Addressing a recent meeting of the Academy of National Economic Sciences, the noted Argentine Financier and Banker, Mr. Carlos A. Tornquist, stated that it was difficult to explain the reasons for the recent considerable and continual exportation of gold, more so as the exports of cereals were large and notwithstanding the fact that prices were low this was not sufficient to effect the Argentine gold peso. The reason might be due to the considerable sums sent to the United States where very high interests were being paid. Another reason that might explain the matter better could be punctualized by the exporters of cereals who it was observed were not circularizing drafts on the market as should be expected at a time when 50,000 tons per day were being exported.

On the other hand goods were being imported into the country which competed with national manufacture, the latter in many cases not being protected sufficiently. Though no official statistics on commerce are published it

Current Events  
May 1929  
---

was a fact that importation at this date was higher than it had ever been known to be before.

Notwithstanding all these facts - Mr. Tornquist stated - the export of gold should cause no alarm, for it is the result of an unfavourable balance in the payments of the moment. The fact is there, and cannot be avoided by any difficulties raised to impede the export of gold from the country. If there exists an unfavourable balance it must be covered gold or merchandise. If this is not done Argentina's credit abroad would suffer greatly; while the free exit of gold to cover unfavourable balances will be interpreted abroad as a sign of the strength of the country and the financial and monetary order. Any policy to curtail the exportation is an error except in abnormal moments or time of war. What is the good of the gold if it cannot be put to use when it is most required? Besides it can be stated without any doubt that during the last year too much gold was imported without being of any major utility to the country, and it was easy to predict that it would be exported later, not only because it exceeded the monetary requirements of the country, but also due to a favourable balance in the settlement of payments occasioned in an abrupt and rather artificial manner by the large loans contracted abroad.

  
E. C. Fleming  
Captain, A.G.S.,  
Military Attaché.

2-1 2048-182  
40

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE READ AT THE

OPENING OF CONGRESS ON

MAY 24TH, 1929

"To the Honourable Congress of the Nation -

"The administrative problems which have arisen since the Government took office have been so numerous and of so varied a character that, despite all efforts to deal with them, it has been found impossible to decide many of them with finality.

"This notwithstanding, it has confronted the demands of public and private character, guaranteeing the exercise of all rights with the greatest possible tranquillity and respect, just as it has guaranteed the continuation and stability of the national labours. It has defended the country's producers against the effects of the world grain crisis; it has proceeded with and resumed work on numerous public works which had been suspended and commenced new works, the execution of which was demanded by the culture and civilisation of the Republic. It has given new impulse to railway transport, seeking the improvement of the constituent elements therein and initiating the extension of the State lines. From the railway companies themselves it has obtained the promise - already in execution - to amplify their field of action in order to facilitate and cheapen the movement of produce within the territory of the Republic.

Elementary Education.

"Elementary education, lamentably uncared for in the past - to the extent that illiteracy has reappeared to an astonishing degree in the Provinces and the Federal Capital itself - has also been one of the major preoccupations of the Government, which is now able to affirm that hundreds of elementary schools are now being built all over the national territories - like fortresses of culture to combat ignorance among the people.

Public Health.

"Public health, the standard of which had been perceptibly lowered according to the alarming increase in mortality returns, has been attended with efficiency by means of sanitary work so scientifically and well-directed that not only have hygienic conditions in general been improved, but

successful protection given against invasions of contagious and infectious maladies and diseases threatened from various sources.

#### The Government's plans.

"For the reasons here expressed, the Executive Power has not had sufficient time at its disposal to condense and set forth in detail all its intentions with regard to the general well-being of the country. They will be submitted in due course and in order to avoid further delay in the inauguration of the Parliamentary period, permits itself, in the meantime to request the Honourable Congress to dedicate its forthcoming deliberations to the affairs included in the many Bills sent to it during the years 1916-1922, to emphasise the importance of which, where the prosperity of the Republic is concerned would be entirely superfluous.

#### National Legislation.

"There can be little doubt that our National legislation does not meet the exigencies of the society in which we live. Our economic structure is not sufficiently protected by laws which guarantee the results of labour which helps, with well organised credit, the efforts of production, which establishes provisional defence against the adversities which always threaten social welfare, and finally which open new perspectives to the dynamic expansion of its industries.

#### Labour Legislation.

"Analogous, or even greater deficiencies, are found in our labour legislation.

"It is necessary to improve the legislation designed to protect the country's workers by creating organizations to prevent conflicts which may arise and give to the workers the certainty that the State will always be ready to help them when they are threatened by vicissitudes, when the maintenance of their homes or the future of their children is in doubt.

"The completion of the political system indicated in the Constitution should be proceeded with, having in mind the precepts by which the category of Federal States may be conferred upon the National territories when, by reason of their population, the culture, and their economic development, they have reached the standard required for their provincialisation.

"The Organic laws governing the public administration and the institutions for national defence should be brought

up-to-date in accordance with modern concepts regarding the efficiency of their functions.

National Spirit of the Republic.

"It is with considerable gratification that the Government is able to affirm before the Honourable Congress that the national spirit is being upheld with fervour in all the territory of the Republic. Harmony reigns, permitting the development of all beneficial activities, and presaging the vigorous rebirth of common and multiple labours.

"In the same way the Government has pleasure in stating that Argentina's relations with the whole of the rest of the world are excellent.

"By virtue of the right conferred in Article 86, Clause 11, of the National Constitution, I declare the sessions of the Honourable Congress opened.....

(Signed) H. Irigoyen - Elpidio Gonzalez.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

2-1 AUG 2 2048-182 1929  
41  
WAR DEPARTMENT

June 30th, 1929

4016

Subject: Current Events for the month of June

To: A. C. of S. G-2

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. AUG 1 - 1929

✓ 1. The following is an editorial which appeared in "La Prensa", one of Argentina's leading newspapers, on June 29th:-

"Much surprise has naturally been caused here by the cable report that appeared in the Press a few days ago concerning the delicate position in which the Argentine Naval Sub-Commission stationed in London finds itself placed with regard to the British ship-builders respecting the delivery of the destroyer "Mendoza", the construction of which is quite finished, so that the vessel ought to have been launched forth on its voyage for these shores several days ago. The present situation, which has nothing to do with the technical part of the construction work (which was carried out to the account of the Argentine Government since the trials to which the ship has been subjected have given highly satisfactory results, is compromising the good name of this country abroad, adversely affecting its credit and depriving the mission which the Naval Sub-Commission mentioned above was given the task of fulfilling in England of all value.

'On account of the drafts not being dully sent for the instalments owing to the ship-builders, the latter have refused to hand over the "Mendoza" until the Argentine Ministry of Marine has complied with its undertaking in this respect. Naturally neither the Argentine Embassy in London not the Naval Sub-Commission stationed there has any means of getting over the extraordinary difficulty in question, which appears to have arisen from the functional disorder from which this country is suffering in its administrative organs.

'The "Bahia Blanca" which made an eventful and even picturesque journey, since it was towed across the ocean, as though there were no other vessels in the Argentine Fleet that could have replaced it after the accident that occurred to it off the coast of Brazil, has had to leave the London

docks owing to want of funds to cover the expenses connected with its stay therein, which circumstances speaks ill for the good name of the present Government, which neither complies with its undertakings nor attends as it ought to the ordinary needs of a unit of the Fleet on a special mission in foreign waters.

'Administrative details, connected with the prevailing political situation, are absorbing the attention of the men who now hold the reins of power in the Argentine Government.

'The Argentine sailors who compose the crews of the destroyer "Mendoza" and the transport "Bahia Blanca" are walking about the streets of London waiting until this vexatious affair is settled, and the days go by without their being called back to their posts.

'Thus, much food is given for dubious or erroneous comments, which are far from being favorable to this country.

'It is already several days since the disagreeable position in which the Argentine Naval Sub-Commission place became known here, yet, nevertheless, the Argentine Government has not, so far, displayed any concern over the matter or adopted the measures that are urgently demanded to put an end to an unpleasant state of affairs which the whole country deplores."

The transport "Bahia Blanca" referred to herein took the crew, which was to man the "Mendoza", to England, on its way to Italy where it was to be modernized. On the voyage it suffered considerable engine trouble besides an accident which occurred on board in which one sailor lost his life and another was badly wounded.

2. It is stated that all the activities of the Commission for the purchase of armaments in Europe have been paralyzed due to the lack of funds which have not been forwarded from Argentine to fulfill signed contracts. It is understood that a large sum is due for purchases made this year. This has not only placed the Commission in a very awkward position but has caused a large loss of money for unfulfilled contracts. Since last October the present Government has had on hand all the necessary documents to solve questions which have arisen in the Commission for the purchase of armaments; also detailed facts on the irregularities which occurred at that time incurred by subaltern employees. Notwithstanding this eight months of the new administration have gone by and no resolution has been taken, which has brought matters to their present situation where signed con-

tracts have expired without the necessary funds being forwarded to cover them and the complete paralyzation of the activities of the commission.

3. General Nicacio F. Adalid having returned from Europe where he has been on a Mission of Instruction, has resumed his post as director of the Arsenals of War. He relieves General Basilio Pertine who replaced him in this capacity during his absence.

4. Colonel Ernesto Baldassarre has been appointed Director General of administration of the Army, replacing Brigadier General Tomás Martínez who has been acting in that capacity for several years. The latter officer is now on the status of awaiting orders.

5. A decree signed by President Irigoyen on June 10 promoted "Don Elpidio Gonzalez" from the rank of lieutenant to that of captain of the reserve. The new Captain is Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez the Minister of the Interior.

6. The Argentine Government has received an invitation from the German Government to assist the maneuvers of the German Army under the orders of General Heye this year.

7. As an outcome of an incident connected with the bricklayers strike which has been carried on in the city for several weeks, in which a bricklayer was killed, the Federación Obrera Regional Argentina and the Federación Obrera Local Bonaerense - two powerful labour organizations called a 24 hour strike on June 12th as a protest. The strike was not a general movement as had been intended by the organizers.

8. A new conflict seems imminent in the port of Rosario among the stevedores of the coastwise vessels in port and other groups connected with the shipping trade. The port workers sustain that shipping companies are not fulfilling the clauses of the agreement arrived at with their personnel for the settlement of the last strike and the Federación Marítima Rosarina has warned the shippers that if all the clauses are not strictly complied with immediately the stevedores would refuse to handle merchandise consigned to them at the port.

9. During the month a vast political organization, the object of which was the sale of Government posts and audiences with the President of the Republic, was broken up by the police and its head, Dr. Campa, Secretary to the Central Committee of the Unión Cívica Radical was placed under arrest. It is asserted that the accused made a personal profit of \$ 50,000. pesos while the scheme was in operation and that in return he actually obtained 300 clients.



10. Though two months have elapsed out of the five which is the term fixed for the ordinary sessions of Congress by the National Constitution and both Chambers have held various sessions, no legislation of any kind has been carried out. This has been entirely due to political obstruction and party disagreements.

11. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies held its first meeting for the present session on June 19th and decided after a brief discussion to give preferential attention to the Bills calling for the establishment of a National Farmers Bank and relating to the formation of an Argentine Mercantile Marine. It is understood that the first mentioned scheme will be developed out of a series of Bills submitted to Congress in recent years and, for the greater part pigeon-holed and forgotten about.

2  
12. On June 20th a lamentable incident occurred during a session of the Chamber of Deputies. It was caused by a motion made by a Conservative member to the effect that the Minister of Finance should be interpolated regarding the number of Government employees dismissed in recent months and the motives behind their dismissals, referring to the action as a "National Disgrace"; from this a violent dialogue ensued in which epithets unfit to print were exchanged as were also missiles in the shape of books and writing pads; when a hand to hand fight was about to ensue between the antagonists, several members intervened and succeeded in pacifying them. After the session which adjourned immediately as a consequence of the disorder, the perpetrators of the incident, Dr. Viñas (Conservative Member) sent his seconds to demand satisfaction of Dr. Bergalli (Personalista Member). A duel took place the following day with pistols, neither party being hurt.

13. On June 21st the Chamber of Deputies held a session in which the majority voted against the projects submitted by Dr. Dickmann, relative to the Interpolation of the Minister of Education on the incorporation of private schools and that submitted by Dr. de Tomaso for the Interpolation of the Minister of Finance relative to the dismissal of hundreds of employees and workmen of the civil service.

14. Dr. Melo the leader of the Radical Anti-Personalista party returned from Europe on June 22nd. This party has abstained from any activity in the National Senate where they have a majority, awaiting the arrival of their leader and now are becoming more active and attempts are being made to form a quorum without the assistance of the other parties and approve the diplomas of the Senators-elect from San Juan and Mendoza

which were not considered in the last Session of Congress. Their first attempt to carry out this purpose resulted, a few days ago in a scandal in Congress; the mob invaded the House with shouts and cries and several of the members suffered knocks and falls in the rough crowds. This, several daily papers have insinuated was arranged beforehand by the Irigoyenist party, who being unable to do anything on account of their small number in the Senate were determined one way or another to avoid the meeting.

15. On June 8th the Executive Power issued a decree calling for the expropriation of the branch railway line running from Crespo to Hasenkamp in the Province of Entre Rios, this line was constructed and has hitherto been administered by the Entre Rios Railway Company. This decision was reached at the instance of the Administration of the State Railways and in view of the opening of the line from Diamante to Curuzu-Cuatia. The cost of the expropriation will be 2,952,003. Pesos.

16. Santa Fé Port Extensions. An agreement has been arrived at between the Government of the Province of Santa Fé and the National Government for the construction of important extensions which will increase the capacity of the port of Santa Fé, putting it in condition to admit of a yearly exportation of 3,000,000 tons of produce. Towards the cost of the work, the National Government will contribute the sum of 10,000,000. pesos and the sum of 5,000,000. pesos will be contributed by the Provincial Government.

17. On June 24th the Executive Power signed a decree authorizing the Direction General of Ports and Navigation to initiate important works for the improvement and amplification of the port of Concepción del Uruguay for which the sum of 300,000. Pesos is assigned for this purpose in the present budget.

18. The Government has issued a decree authorizing the Central Argentine Railway Company to build a new line 136 kilometers in length linking up Villa del Rosario in the Province of Córdoba with Fernandez Beltrán in the Province of Santiago del Estero and a branch connecting Cordoba Ferreyra and the new line referred to. The new line will cost the Company approximately 10,272,475 Pesos and it is estimated that the other branch will involve an expenditure of about 6,500,000. pesos.

19. A large demonstration was held in the city of Buenos Aires during the month by the Automobile Club Argentino when a delegation from that Club presented a petition to the President of the Republic in favor of the prompt

sanction of the National Roads Law the draft of which is now before Congress.

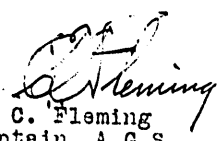
20. During the month the following Railway Companies at special meetings held in London by their respective share-holders passed resolutions amending the Articles of the Associations for the purpose of restricting shares or stock holdable by other than British or Argentine interests.

21. Large shipments of gold continue to be exported to New York and London. These are still the subject of continual press comment.

22. On June 22nd there arrived in the Port of Buenos Aires the British Cruiser Durban on an official visit to Argentina.

23. On June 1st the Executive Power appointed Sr. Hipólito Bordenave National Governor of the Territory of La Pampa and Sr. Custodio Alfredo Aisto National Governor of the Territory of Chubut.

24. Dr. Vicente Rivarola, the new Minister Plenipotentiary of Paraguay in Buenos Aires, was received in an official character on June 27th by the President of the Republic. Without either a speech or a special ceremony the new Minister presented his credentials to Dr. Irigoyen.

  
E. C. Fleming  
Captain, A.G.S.  
Military Attaché

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

July 31st, 1929

4021

Subject: Current Events for the month of July

To: A. C. of S. G-2.

RECEIVED G/2 W.D. AUG 29 1929

1. On July 2nd all workers in the Port of Rosario went on strike, completely paralyzing operations. The stoppage was said to be due to the fact that non-union labor was introduced into the Port on behalf of a firm whose own employees were on strike. The shipping representatives called upon the President of the Republic informing him of the situation created in Rosario as a consequence of the attitude adopted by the workers who were declaring boycotts against ships carrying cargo consigned to firms with whom they were in conflict. These boycotts were of a general character and were very prejudicial to the interests of all firms. The deputation added that it was essential that guarantees should be accorded to workers who wished to remain in their posts and that steps should be taken to guarantee also that boycotts should not be made applicable to shipping companies which were not parties to the conflicts. On July 4th when the Rosario port workers were invited to confer with Ingeniero Manuel Claps, Director General of Railways and personal representative of the President Irigoyen, they definitely rejected Government intervention in the present conflict. On this date the tramway men and the chauffeurs decided to strike as an act of solidarity with the stevedores. On July 12th the stevedores strike of Rosario extended to other river ports with the result that operations were practically at a standstill at Santa Fe, Villa Constitución, San Lorenzo and Gaboto. On July 15th the Port workers in Buenos Aires commenced a 48 hour strike in "sympathy" or solidarity with the Rosario strikers. This strike was only partially observed and ended on July 17th when work in the port of the Federal Capital was resumed on normal line in the affected areas. On July 18th acting on the suggestion of Dr. Irigoyen the representatives of the employers and the strikers held a meeting in Rosario to consider conditions for the settlement of the port strike. The representatives of the strikers did not formulate any conditions but they refused to consider those proposed by the employers which were:

1. Absolute suppression of boycotts.
2. The workmen shall have no say in the directing of the work.
3. The personnel at the present engaged shall not be removed.

On July 25th in defense of their "right to boycott" and taking up the challenge of the grain exporters who offered employ-

*Indio*

Current Events  
July 1929  
----

ment to "anyone strong or willing enough to do heavy work", the Rosario Labor Unions called a general strike throughout the city which commenced on July 26th. On July 27th a fresh mediation was attempted by the Government, the workers however stated that when they wished to reach a settlement they would do so with the shippers without the interference of the Government. On the same day the representatives of the stevedores accepted the invitation to enter in fresh negotiations with the Bolsa de Comercio (Representing the Grain Exporters). The strikers' spokesman in an insulting address stated to the President of the Bolsa de Comercio that they had merely come to hear new proposals, they were not prepared to remain or enter into discussions, nor would they have anything to do with any mediation scheme which had emanated from Dr. Abalos (Minister of Public Works) or any other Government Official. The President informed the delegation that the Bolsa de Comercio was not influenced in any of its actions by politics or politicians. The conditions submitted to the workers at this meeting were as follows:

- 1) Return to work in accordance with the agreement reached between the workers and employers at a meeting in the Bolsa de Comercio in May 1928;
- 2) The right of every man, union or otherwise, to work in the port;
- 3) The appointment of a tribunal of three to decide whether certain "undesirable" labourers should be dismissed or not, the tribunal to be formed by a representative of the Government, of the Employers, and of the stevedores' union (Note: The term "undesirable" is understood to be applied to "blacklegs" and not to regular non-union port workers);
- 4) Any point of discussion arising between the men and the employers should be referred immediately to an arbitrator to be appointed by the National Government, whose decision would be final;
- 5) All disputes now pending should be settled immediately;
- 6) No reprisals should be indulged in on either side.

The strikers again definitely rejected the employers' terms refusing absolutely to accept Federal intervention. On being informed of this decision the Minister of Public Works had a further interview with the strike leaders to whom he declared among other things that "the government would guarantee the personal safety of those willing to work and those who wished to return to work".

The harm done in the city of Rosario is great and acts of violence have been general. On July 27th a fight took place between pickets and free labour resulting in the death of a policeman and serious wounds to several of the combatants. All means of transportation have been paralysed and the use of private cars was dangerous. A shortage in the food supply

Current Events  
July 1929  
-----

threatened. However on July 31st at a mass meeting of Rosario stevedores it was decided to accept the settlement terms offered by the grain exporters on the 27th, on the condition that the strikers who have been detained in connection with the conflict will be set at liberty. This will also mean the termination of the general movement in the city which obeys no other purpose than that of solidarity with the stevedores.

It is estimated that the shipping companies have been paying about \$70,000 perday for demurage dues in respect of boats waiting to unload and load in the port of Rosario.

2. The number of ships entering the port of Rosario during the first seven months of this year shows a decrease of 400 ships as compared with the number which entered during the same period of last year. This indicates the damages done to commerce in general in the Port and city of Rosario by labour trouble. It is calculated that the loss sustained up to the present by Commerce and shipping through the port strike in Rosario exceeds \$10,000,000 m/n.

3. The following Railway Companies in Argentina at special meetings held in London by their respective shareholders, followed the example set by the Buenos Aires Pacific Railway, passing resolutions amending the articles of the Associations for the purpose of restricting shares or stock holdable by other than British or Argentine interests: Central Cordoba Railway; Great Southern Railway; Entre Rios Railway Company and Buenos Aires Western Railway.

4. During the month the new terminal station of Santa Fe Provincial Railway was inaugurated. The new station is a monumental building which embodies all the most up to date improvements.

5. The Minister of Public Works has given his official approval of the plans presented by the Southern Railway for the construction of a new bridge 287.30 metres long over the Arroyo Sauce-Grande on the Tres Arroyos-Bahia Blanca line.

6. Negotiations are about to be opened between the Municipality and a group of British business men for the revival of the vast underground railway scheme submitted to the city authorities three years ago by the Amptill sysdicate. The leading spirit in the new negotiations is Mr. Philip H. Smithers who was associated with Lord Amptill's unsuccessful project. It is interesting to recall in connection with these new negotiations that the original scheme as presented by Dr. Celestino I. Marcó on behalf of the Amptill Syndicate failed to satisfy the city authorities principally because

Current Events  
July 1929  
-----

of doubt as to the financial ability of the syndicate to carry the scheme into execution. The fear existed among certain members of the city council and officials in the Intendency that the syndicate had the intention to obtain the concession and sell it at a large profit and as the interested parties were unable entirely to disprove the allegation, the negotiations were dropped.

7. The National Deputy G. Martinez Guerrero has presented in the Chamber a project law authorizing the National Government to construct a system of roads in the South of the Province of Buenos Aires and to build a port for coastwise shipping in the Bay of San Clemente.

One of the projected roads would start from Magdalena follow the coast and pass through Punta del Indio, Punta Piedras, Samborombon Bay, Conesa, General Lavalle and Mar Chiquita to and in the City of Mar del Plata.

A second road would start from the City of Dolores, follow as far as possible the embankments of the canal No.9 of the Provincial drainage system and meet the road referred to in the previous paragraph, and a third road would start from the City of Maipu and follow the entire course of the canal F. of the provincial drainage system.

For the financing of the works, including studies and surveys, the project authorizes the Executive Power to issue internal or external bonds of the National Public Credit up to the value of \$14,795,000 bearing 6% interest and 10% amortization annually.

Of the total issue, the sum of \$1,500,000 would be set apart for the construction of a port for coastwise shipping in the San Clemente Bay. (Figures quoted in paper pesos).

8. The local representative of the Smit Shipyards, of Holland, has informed the Ministry of Public Works that he has received a communication to the effect that the large dredger built for the Argentine Government sailed yesterday for Buenos Aires.

The new dredger, which is destined for work in the maritime ports, especially Mar del Plata, Quequen, Bahia Blanca and Comodoro Rivadavia, cost \$1,900,000 m/n. It is fitted with Diesel electric engines, can dredge to a depth of 40 feet and has capacity to remove 6,000 cubic metres of silt per hour.

The dredger is making the voyage from Holland under its own motive power, having given very satisfactory results in the preliminary trials to which it was submitted some days ago in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Public Works.

Current Events  
July 1929  
-----

9. The stock of gold that existed in the Conversion Office on July 25th was made up of the following values:-

	Coins:	\$ Gold
Argentinos .....	1,530,274	7,651,370
Eagles .....	28,229,407	292,569,574
£ .....	29,144,535	146,888,456
20 Marks .....	3,492,442	17,252,665
	Total:	<u>464,362,065</u>

Up to a short time ago the Conversion Office held 377,208 coins of 20 Francs and 119,000 Alfonsinos, representing the value of \$1,508,835 Gold Argentine Pesos and \$595,000 Gold Argentine Pesos respectively.

10. According to a recent report of the Statistical Office of the Ministry of Finance, the consolidated public debt on June 30th last amounted to the total sum of \$2,229,604,000 m/n, of which \$1,138,669,000 m/n corresponds to the internal and \$1,092,935,000 m/n to the external debts.

With a calculated population of 10,904,022 inhabitants, the debt per capita works out at \$204.4 m/n.

11. The Bureau of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance reports that the foreign trade returns of the Republic during last year amounted to the sum of \$1,934,369,000 Gold Argentine pesos as compared with \$1,866,129,000 Gold Argentine pesos during 1927.

Imports during the year 1928 represented the value of \$904,704,000 Gold Argentine pesos and exports \$1,029,666,000 Gold Argentine Pesos as compared with \$850,804,000 Gold Argentine pesos and \$1,009,325,000 Gold Argentine Pesos during 1927.

The exports of coined gold during 1928 amounted to the sum of \$12,349,000 Gold Argentine Pesos, there having been no exports of gold the previous year.

The commercial inter-change during 1928 left a favourable balance of \$124,962,000 Gold Argentine Pesos as compared with a favourable balance of \$152,521,000 Gold Argentine Pesos for the year 1927.

The Statistical Bureau also reports that the value of the imports during the first-half of the present year amounted to the sum of \$431,517,000 Gold Argentine Pesos against \$404,045,000 for the corresponding period of 1928, and that the exports represented the value of \$531,169,000 Gold Argentine Pesos as compared with \$577,354,000 Gold Argentine Pesos during the first-half of 1928.

During the first half of the present year the exports reached to the total of 9,390,862 tons as compared with 9,236,984 tons during the corresponding period of 1928.



Current Events  
July 1929  
-----

During the first half of 1929, the revenue derived from import and export duties amounted to the sum of \$96,586,996 gold as compared with \$93,598,723 gold during the corresponding period of last year.

12. The Estimates and Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies met on July 11th to continue the study of the project presented by the Executive Power for the creation of an agrarian bank. It was decided, in principle, that the capital of the new bank will be \$100,000,000 m/n and that, instead of "Banco Agricola, Nacional," as proposed by the Executive Power, the institution will be denominated "Banco Agrario Nacional". The minority of the Committee, composed of the two Socialist members, sustained that instead of the creation of a new bank, an agricultural credit section should be opened in the Banco de la Nación.

13. The Ministry of Finance deposited on July 12th the sum of \$2,393,435 m/n to the order of the Directorate of the Obras Sanitarias de la Nación, destined for the construction of water-works and sewers in the following cities: Concepcion del Uruguay, \$478,796; Cordoba \$500,000; Corrientes \$500,000 and Salta \$914,639.

14. On July 5th the Chamber of Deputies approved in general the project of the Bankers Pensions Bill. Since they have been studying each clause in particular, but up to the present date only eight out of the seventy five articles have been sanctioned. Little hope is entertained therefore of the measure being rejected or passed to the Senate during the present legislative period.

15. The National Senate has spent the entire sessions held during the current month discussing the diplomas of the Senators elect for San Juan and Mendoza. These sessions have been heated with lengthy and abusive speeches. To date however, the discussion is by no means finished; no definite action has been taken though from day to day some resolution is expected.

16. An official resolution which was well received in shipping and commercial circles was given out late on July 21st whereby the Executive Power suppressed the quarantine restrictions on ships calling at Brazilian ports. During the four months in which ships were held up in the outer roads Argentins medical officials visited 504 ships and examined individually 61,000 people including passengers and crews. The only cases of fever actually encountered were on cargo steamers.

Current Events  
July 1929

17. On July 13th the British cruiser "Durban", on a official visit to Argentina, left the port of Buenos Aires.

18. The hydroplane "Washington" on a trip of inspection of the route of the proposed line of commercial aeroplanes between New York and Buenos Aires, arrived here on July 13th. The officers of the ship were very well received in Buenos Aires.

19. On July 15th the Aero Posta Argentina inaugurated a new air mail service between Buenos Aires and Chile, the plane left Pacheco Air Field at 6:25 and arrived in Santiago, Chile at 2:35 p.m. There will be two regular trips made per week. The company has not yet been officially authorized to carry passengers.

20. An order for four planes placed with the New York firm of Vought Chance Corporation by the Argentine Government has been filled and the planes have been ready and packed for shipment for the past three months awaiting orders from Argentina. The sum fixed for these planes is \$137.00 U.S.; they are of the hydroplane type for the cruisers that were being built in England to be destined to the Argentine Navy. The manufacturers have repeatedly advised the Naval Mission in New York that the planes are ready for delivery and that payment is due. The planes have been inspected by the representatives of the Argentine Government and found to fulfill all requirements. However it is expected that action will soon be taken in this matter as the purchase of nine Savoia hydroplanes constructed for the Argentine Navy in Italy has just been settled and the planes are being forwarded. It is therefore hoped that the settlement will also be made of those ordered in the United States and in England.

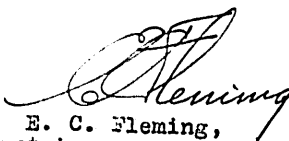
21. During the month the death took place of General Felix Benavides distinguished retired officer of the Argentine Army.

22. During the month Admiral Juan A. Martin was appointed President of the Supreme Court of War and Marine.

23. As a consequence of the situation created in Europe for the members of the Commission for the purchase of Military and Naval Armaments, by the failure of the Government to forward funds to fulfill the obligations in their contracts the Chief of the Naval Mission in London, Admiral Galindez and the Chief of the Mission for the Purchase of Military Armaments, General Manuel J. Costa have requested to be relieved from their duties. No action has been taken by the Government in this matter and it is not expected that any will be taken for the present.

Current Events  
July 1929

- 
- ✓24. There are attached two editorials which appeared in the daily newspapers with reference to the situation of the Army and Navy purchasing missions abroad.
  - ✓25. A number of retired officers of the Argentine Army and Navy have addressed a note to the Liga Patriótica Argentina requesting them to initiate a movement in favor of the settlement of the disagreeable situation created by the Argentine Government not meeting their obligations abroad.
  - ✓26. On July 3rd, there arrived in Buenos Aires the new Belgium Minister to Argentina, Mr. Henri Ketels.
  - ✓27. On July 5th the Bolivian Minister to Argentina Dr. Jose Maria Escalier handed in his resignation. This was due to political reasons in his country.
  - 28. During the month the Compañia Hispano Americana de Electricidad inaugurated their new power station in Buenos Aires. This is not only the largest power station in South America, but one of the largest in the world.
  - ✓29. Colonel Porta, Director of the Army Remount Division left Buenos Aires on July 15th to take possession of the land acquired by the Government for the tracing out of a National park and the establishment of a military colony in the vicinity of the great Falls of Iguazú.

  
E. C. Fleming,  
Captain, A.G.S., M.A.

Enc. 2 Translations.

LA PRENSA - July 27th, 1929.

ARMAMENTS COMMISSIONS ABROAD.

Notwithstanding the serious state of things which has been brought about through the suspension by the Argentine Government of the payments of the instalments due for the Army and Navy, which was authorised by Congress, and in spite of the announcements repeatedly made several months ago that the matter was being studied and measures relating thereto would be adopted before long, the Executive Power has so far taken no decisive step to settle the business.

Meanwhile, the country has to see its credit abroad depreciated by this humiliating situation, with all the losses it entails on the Public Treasury, through the indemnities that will have to be paid and the expenses incurred by the lengthy stay of a large inactive staff in Europe; war-vessels are completed but cannot be taken over; and a Naval transport - the "Bahia Blanca", which was said to have been purchased for an almost fabulous sum which would be covered by that produced by its freight in a round voyage to Europe - is unable to sail through its engines being out of order, nor can it go into dock to be repaired as it has to serve as a lodging for about 800 sailors who are waiting until this business is settled.

This state of things is not only adversely affecting the credit of Argentina and the efficiency of her Army and Navy, but it is also casting a slur on the good name of certain chiefs of those institutions who occupy or have occupied posts on the respective Armaments Commissions and who now find themselves placed in a position that is imperilling their prestige, without any valid reason being forthcoming for keeping them in it, since those officials, becoming weary of being victimised by the unpleasant circumstances brought about by the conduct of their Government, have repeatedly begged to be relieved of their charges.

In short, whenever the need has been pointed out that an explanation should be given of the reasons for the suspension of the payments of the instalments on the price of the armaments, the veiled insinuation has been made that irregularities have occurred in the carrying out of the contracts for the armaments in question, though an open and definite statement in this regard has never been put forward. Naturally the first thing that it occurs to one to ask, in view of these insinuations, is why, if the present Government believes the latter, has it not conducted an investigation into the business

in order to clear up all doubts on the subject, instead of allowing suspicion to be cast beforehand on the doings of those who had charge of the negotiations for over two years.

In any case, even supposing that there are grounds for the insinuations referred to, that would not justify the suspension of the payments of the instalments due, nor the abandonment of the vessels and material that have been acquired, nor the stay for an indefinite time in a foreign country of a numerous staff forced to live in uncomfortable circumstances and occasioning heavy expense to the Nation, not to mention the discredit cast on the latter by the sight of that large body of troops remaining so long in complete idleness.

No less astonishing in this emergency has been the resignation of the respective military Ministers, who, it appears, have not succeeded, in spite of their many efforts to persuade the Head of the Government to attend to the matter, in getting an end put to the business, which affects their respective departments above all, since it relates, in the first place, to the defence of the country, which is confided to their care, and to that of the credit of the Nation and the good name of the military and naval chiefs who are at the head of the commissions that have been entrusted with the carrying out of the laws alluded to above.

As may be easily understood, whether it be seriously proposed to conduct a searching inquiry into the affair or to bring it to a conclusion by paying the instalments owing for the material purchased, the prevailing state of affairs, which is so very humiliating for the country, can no longer be allowed to continue.

La Prensa July 16, 1929

2048-182

122

#### ✓ LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE ARMAMENT LAWS

What is happening in the Naval Commission and the Commission for the purchase of Armaments abroad.

According to the last reports all efforts exerted up to the present time by the Government officials to persuade the President of the Nation to settle the serious situation created by neglecting payment of obligations outlined in contracts made in accordance with laws voted by Congress for the renewal of armaments for the Army and Navy, have been unsuccessful.

Representatives of "La Prensa" in England and in Italy have made known the anxiety of the heads of the Military and Naval Missions on account of the Government's delay, and, according to our reports, after insisting on the necessity have requested to be relieved from their duties.

In the mean time, in the Ministry of War and in the Ministry of Marine, it is stated and insisted upon that the Executive Power is "studying the matter", a study which has already involved several months while the credit of the nation is suffering in a very evident manner and the officials referred to find themselves placed in a highly delicate position.

#### The payment of the quotas due for the cruisers.

As we have stated before the three cruisers constructed in British ship-yards - "Mendoza", "Tucuman" and "Rioja" are ready for delivery and the crews which are to man them are also there awaiting to bring them to the country; however these ships cannot fly our flag because the government fails to pay the quotas which are due in payment for them, notwithstanding the repeated notification on the part of the Chief of the Naval Mission, who has explained the serious situation not only to the Minister of Marine but also to the President of the Republic.

While the matter is being studied - according to the statements made by the Government for several months past - grave rumours have circulated and developed referring, first to the news in circulation that a South American Country, in view of the delay to settle the payment of the units, had offered to acquire the ships from the ship builders - cruisers which have been built expressly for our Navy - . Another rumour refers to an intimation of the representative of the ship builders that the units would be handed over without previously exacting the payments that are due, which proposal, if it were true, would not be very honorable to the country, which having sufficient funds disposable, would accept a favour

of this kind.

Another serious state of affairs created by the failure of the Government to comply with said contracts for the Navy, is the position in which hundreds of marines in Europe are placed while waiting to man our cruisers - crowded and inadequately quartered - while the fleet here, according to reports, has not sufficient personnel to man the units that should form the instruction Division for the current year's work.

The crews have been living in London on loans because the money for their subsistence has not been forwarded.

We know that for some days past the Minister of Marine has tried to confer with the President of the Nation to relieve the situation, but to date notwithstanding the conditions caused by the indifference of the Executive Power no decision has been arrived at.

The Commission for the Purchase of Armaments for the Army.

No less serious than the position of the Naval Commission is the predicament in which the Commission for the purchase of armaments abroad is placed since the new Administration came into power.

Hardly had the new Government taken office than an investigation was initiated for which the Chief of the Mission, General J. Costa, sent to Buenos Aires an officer who reported on all the antecedents of the case. When these were studied and the different incidents commented upon, the attitude of the Commission was found to be unimpeachable, and the officer was ordered back to Europe with new instructions. From then until now various difficulties have arisen, not only as to the form in which the contracts were let, but also with regard to the payment of debts incurred, not the least of these being the salaries due the Chiefs and Officers detailed to the Purchasing Commission. These the new Government refused to pay in gold as established by law. However, within the last few days it was decided to forward the salaries, so many months in arrears, in the manner stipulated by law.

It is held that the sum contracted for the current year is larger than the annual expenditure authorized by law for the renewal of material for the Army; if this is a fact the Executive Power should proceed in a straightforward manner and deal correspondingly with the point. It is also said that a disagreement has originated out of a contract for the purchase of ammunition which, were it not settled amicably, might

cost the Nation a heavy sum in indemnifications.

As a natural outcome of this state of affairs, the Chief of the Purchasing Commission in Europe has requested to be relieved from his duties, but according to what we have been told the answer to his request has been that the matter is being studied and that he is to remain at the head of the Commission until the President of the Republic had made a decision.

In other words these long "Studies" which are never put up to the proper authorities for correct solution, either in the army or navy, are creating a grave situation for our foreign credit, as also for our national defense, and which we have no doubt will be the subject of serious preoccupation on the part of the people of this nation.



AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

August 31st, 1929

2048-182

43

4029

Subject: Current Events for the month of August

to: A. C. of S., G-2.-

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. SEP 26 1929

1. On August first, at a mass meeting of Rosario Stevedores, it was decided to accept the terms offered by the grain exporters in the city of Rosario, and to call off the general strike immediately, the men arrested in connection with the incidents arising out of the stoppage, had been liberated. On August 2nd work was resumed throughout the city with the exception of the tramway personnel who still continued to commit outrages against the company's property placing bombs in tram-cars and attacking employees desirous to work. The tramway services on a limited scale were resumed on August 4th. However on August 18th within a fortnight of the settlement of the last conflict, the port workers threatened another general strike, this was the outcome of, and an act of solidarity with the tramway men's strike; it came into effect on August 21st and was declared by the labour unions of Rosario for an indefinite period.

However, the police authorities, had adopted measures to guarantee the food supply, public safety and freedom of work; having solicited reinforcements from the provincial Capital, of eight hundred policemen and fire men; also numerous agitators were detained. Perhaps it was due to these precautions that the strike did not assume a general character, although the port movements were totally paralysed. On August 23rd conditions in Rosario became more normal, and on the 25th, the strike was officially considered at an end, except for the tramway strike which still continues. The President of the Republic, the Director-General of the State Railways, and the Minister of Public Works, have all endeavoured in recent months to settle the differences between the Rosario Tramway Company and its employees. The Chief of Police of the city, Sr. Grandolia is now endeavouring to settle the matter, and during the last few days the services have been almost normal, new hands having been taken on, replacing the men who would not return to work, the trams being protected by the police force. It is affirmed that the Electric Tramway Company in Rosario lost \$1,396,159.36 m/n during its last financial year as a consequence of the frequent strikes.

2. The continuous strikes in Rosario have obliged the sugar refinery "Refinería Argentina de Rosario", the largest industrial establishment in the city which has been lo-

Current Events  
August 1929  
-----

cated there for nearly thirty years, to liquidate its factory, preparatory to moving to Tucuman, the interminable succession of strikes making it impossible for the industry to prosper in Rosario. When conflicts cease, over a thousand workmen will find that they have no more employment. It is affirmed that the factory buildings have been sold to Bunge y Born and will probably be converted into deposits for grain and other products.

3. The National Labour Department reports, that the working population in the capital during the year 1928 totalled 479,630 of whom 377,948 were men and 79,619 women and 22,063 minors.

4. The New York Rio, Buenos Aires Air Line Inc. has announced that their new passenger air service line will be permanently inaugurated on September 4th for the transportation of passengers, and mail between Buenos Aires and Santiago Chile, with stops at Rosario, Cordoba and Mendoza. The planes to be used for this regular service will be the trimotor Ford "Santiago" and "Rio de la Plata" and the bimotor "Southern Cross".

5. On August 9th there arrived in Buenos Aires, proceeding from Rio de Janeiro, Mr. James Summers, Vice President of the Pan-American Airways Incorporated, and Mr. E. Bradley, Secretary of the Department of Civil Aviation of Argentina, as passenger in a Fokker Super Universal amphibian. The object of the trip was to make arrangements for the company's air mail and passenger services to be extended down the Atlantic coast to South America. It is stated that the Pan American Airways Inc. has not yet finished negotiations with the Argentine Government to obtain requisite concessions.

6. Dr. Amallo, the Director of the Post and Telegraphs, has informed the Minister of the Interior, that he has received a proposal from an Argentine aviation company, to establish various air mail lines in the interior of the Republic. The proposed lines would be established as follows: between the Federal Capital, and Jujuy passing through Rosario, Córdoba and Tucuman, with branches extending to the more important localities of the North and linking up with the similar lines of Bolivia; between Rosario and Formosa, passing through Sta. Fe and Paraná with a probable future extension to Paraguay; from Cordoba to Mendoza and San Juan, passing through San Luis; between the Federal Capital and Bahia Blanca, and from the latter city to San Luis, via Santa Rosa de Toay. The proposed air mail lines represent the aggregate length of 11,000 kilometers.

7. On August 20th the Trimotor Safety Airways Inc.

Current Events  
August 1929  
---

inaugurated a passenger and mail service between Buenos Aires and Montevideo. The airplane "Washington" which was employed for the inauguration covered the distance in one hour and ten minutes. A regular passenger service will consist of two trips per day, backwards and forwards.

8. About the middle of last year, before the new Government came into power, the National Aeroplane factory constructed and delivered the first eight planes manufactured in the factory these were sent to the air base in Falomar. Since the new administration came into power, work has been paralysed and the factory was closed down due to the fact that the government did not forward the necessary funds to keep the institution in activity. About a month ago the funds were authorized and the workmen, who have been idle all these months have once more obtained work; six hundred men were employed in the factory; On the fourth of August four planes were delivered of the Avro type, these have been taken to the Air base in Parana and will be used there, in the Military Aviation School. There are now under construction five more planes of the above mentioned type in the factory.

9. The Executive Power through the Minister of War has authorized the Direccion de Aeronautica Civil to expend the sum of \$230,000 m/n on the purchase of planes, motors and general aviation material.

10. The drawing of lots for the military service of the conscripts, of the Military class 1909, will commence on the 1st of September in the five Divisions of the Army. It is proposed to incorporate with the colours 25,000 of the citizens born in the year 1909.

11. On August 10th General Severo Toranzo left for Europe where he will attend the annual manoeuvres of the German Army. General Francisco M. Velez, Chief of the General Staff of the Army has been appointed Inspector General of the Army during the absence of General Toranzo.

12. On August 12th the President of the Republic authorized payment for the naval units and war materials purchased by the Argentine Naval and Military Commissions serving in Europe and the United States. The total sum ordered amounted to \$300,000 and 500,000 dollars. This is the total indebtedness of the Naval and Military Commissions at this date. The authorization was issued without any explanation as to the delay of over one year. Orders have been given that as soon as the new explorers "Mendoza", "Tucuman" and "La Rioja" and the coast guard "General Belgrano" are ready they shall proceed to the River Plate and be incorporated in the fleet. The three destroyers will leave immediately for Holland, where they will be fitted with special apparatus

Current Events  
August 1929  
-----

for firing range. It is expected that they will arrive in Argentina some time in November. The coast guard "General Belgrano" which has been modernized in Italian shipyards is expected to be ready for delivery about the middle of October when it will be incorporated into the Division of Instruction. The transport "Bahia Blanca" will go to Hamburg where it will have its engines revised, and repaired and will probably return to Argentina about the end of the year as the new parts have already been ordered. The tug-boat "Que-randi" that accompanied the transport "Bahia Blanca" to Europe will return immediately to Argentina. According to information from the Ministry of Marine the constructions carried on in Italy, that is to say the two cruisers "25 de Mayo" which has recently been launched and the "Admirante Brown" and three submarines are delayed in their construction. According to our information these ships will be delivered a year late.

13. The Italian cruiser "Trento" arrived in the port of Buenos Aires on August 31st, under the command of Captain Wladimiro Pini; the cruiser is making courtesy visits to the countries in South America and arrived here from Montevideo.

14. During the month a scheme to smuggle goods from Uruguay into Argentina by aeroplane was discovered in Montevideo, the leaders of a vast bootlegging organization with ramifications on both sides of the River Plate, were arrested. The plane discovered was carrying large parcels of silk and it is stated that the traffic has been carried on for many months, two or three trips between Uruguay and Argentina having been made regularly during fine weather.

15. On August 16th the Municipality of the City of Buenos Aires, approved the plans for the construction of a subway between the stations of Retiro (Central Argentine Railway) and Constitution (Great Southern Railway) in the city. These plans were presented over a year ago by the Cia. Anglo Argentina who has now obtained the concession and been given a term of one year in which to begin the work from the date on which the decree was signed. This concession has nothing to do with the one referred to in Current Events for the month of July.

16. During the month the Second National Highways Congress, was held in the auditorium of the Bolsa de Comercio. Dr. Julio C. Borda President of the Touring Club Argentino acted as Chairman. The number of delegates appointed to take part in the Congress reached 293.

17. The Ministry of Public Works is engaged in the preparation of a vast plan for the construction of National

Current Events  
August 1929  
---

highways which will be embodied in a project law to be sent to Congress within a few days. It is affirmed that the Government proposes to construct a vast system of highways and roads throughout the Republic and that the financing of the plan will entail an outlay of \$1000 millions, over a period of ten to fifteen years, the funds to be obtained by the issue of special bonds.

18. The Ministry of Public Works has issued a decree fixing the expenditure of \$20,000,000 included in the Budget for extension works of the State Railways.

19. The Executive Power through the Ministry of Public Works, signed a decree on August 8th appointing National Deputy Engineer Jose Maria Barbich, to represent the Argentine Government at the Second Pan American Highway Congress held in Rio de Janeiro. The nomination was made in compliance with the invitation of the Brazilian Government that Argentina should be represented.

20. By order of the Executive Power the Direction of the State Oilfields has made a rebate in the prices of naphtha, kerosene and fuel oil. The rebate on the naphtha and kerosene has been fixed at \$0.02 m/n per litre and \$0.80 per box, and on fuel oil at \$0.50 per ton. It is calculated that the rebate of 2 centavos per litre of naphtha will represent a yearly economy of about \$12,000,000 m/n for the consumers of the country.

21. The Argentine Foreign Trade during the first six months of this year show a drop of \$65,952,000 gold as compared with the first half of 1928. Imports and Exports considered conjointly, amounting to \$953,022,000 gold. Imports taking their estimated "real" value amounting to \$421,052,000 gold while exports are \$531,971,000 gold. The value of exports is given as being \$45,384,000 gold less than the total for the first half of 1928 or 7.9 per cent difference, attributed solely to falling prices since shipments in 1929 totalled 9,237,000 tons as against 9,481,000 tons for the corresponding period of 1928. The value of imports is given as being \$20,567,000 less than the total for the first half of 1928 or 4.6 percent.

22. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has replied in the affirmative, to the consultation made by the Government of Colombia, as to whether Dr. Pomponio Guzman was "persona grata" to occupy the post of Minister Plenipotentiary of that country in Buenos Aires.

23. On August 13th the Belgian Minister to Argentina D. Henri Ketels presented his credentials to the President

Current Events  
August 1929

---  
of Argentina.

24. On August 10th, there arrived from Europe Dr. Juan B. Sivori, who represented the Argentine Association of the League of Nations, at the International Law Congress held at Brussels in February, and at the International Congress of Associations for the League of Nations which took place last May in Madrid. In fulfilment of his mission, Dr. Sivori visited France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland holding interviews with eminent politicians, and with the authorities of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office. He also attended in the character of observer, at the sessions of the League's Council in Madrid and at those of the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

25. On August 29th the Senate sanctioned the project law, relative to the legal working time, which must not exceed eight hours daily or 48 hours weekly for any person working under pay for account of another in public or private exploitations. This provision does not include agricultural, or livestock workers, domestic servants or the family of the owner, manager, director or principal partner of an establishment. The maximum working time at night must not exceed seven hours, these comprise between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. and when night work is done in insalubrious premises its duration must not exceed six hours. The Senate also sanctioned the project laws for the construction and preservation of sidewalks and enclosures, on the same date.

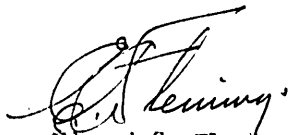
26. On August 21st at a very roudy session in which the quorum was maintained by public force, the Chamber of Deputies approved the project law for Bank employees Pensions fund. According to the newspaper "La Frensa" this bill not only benefits out of all proportion to the contributions made, but it would in many cases favour individuals who never handed in a cent to the fund, who have nothing to do with banking careers, and who in short are entirely outside the banking profession, and so have no business whatsoever to collect one dollar in the form of a pension. Thus the legislators opposed to the scheme, who recently qualified it as a "monstrous" tax upon the banking fraternity of the country were in no wise exaggerated in their statements.

27. On August 2nd the Senate finally rejected the diplomas of the Senators elect, for the Province of San Juan after a prolonged and stormy debate; the voting was 14 votes against six. Since this date the Senate has been unable to muster a quorum to consider the diplomas of Dr. Carlos Washington Lencinas, the Senator elect for Mendoza. The ordinary Session of Congress is nearing its end, and the Senate has only once sat in legal quorum since it disposed of the questions of the diplomas of the Senators elect for

Current Events  
August 1929  
-----

San Juan. There seems to be a systematic plan of obstruction arranged between the members who leave for the interior, and return to the Capital by turns, in such a manner that a quorum is never available on the days fixed for the sessions.

28. Though four months ago the Executive Power decreed the Province of Corrientes intervened, for the purpose of restoring the institutional form of Government, this intervention still only exists on paper. The urgent need for righting so many wrongs has evidently disappeared spontaneously. The citizen who was commissioned to go to Corrientes as head of the intervention retains his credentials, but has not been advised as to the date of his departure.

  
Edmond C. Fleming  
Captain, A.G.S.  
Military Attaché-

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE.  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

September 30th, 1929

2048-182

44

2-1

50

4036

Subject: Current Events for the month of September

To: A. C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. OCT 28 1929

1. The Minister of War has issued the following program for the annual manoeuvres of the Army to be held in the month of October:

1<sup>st</sup> The first and second Divisions of the Army together with the troops from the garrisons of the Federal Capital, Campo de Mayo, Mercedes and La Plata, will carry out their annual manoeuvres in Campo de Mayo from the 15th to the 30th of October.

2<sup>nd</sup> The III and IV Cavalry Brigades will carry out their annual manoeuvres in a zone central to their garrisons.

3<sup>rd</sup> The rest of the troops will carry out their annual manoeuvres and combat firing practice, in the proximities of their respective garrisons, between the dates mentioned in the first paragraph.

4<sup>th</sup> The Schools of Arms, II Brigade of Cavalry, Aviation and Communication Units will participate in the manoeuvres together with the first and second division of the Army.

5<sup>th</sup> The Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions of the Army will carry out tactical travels between the fifth and the 30th of November.

6<sup>th</sup> The Inspector of Zappers will carry out an instruction travel with the commanders and officers of the Units of their arm, during the first fifteen days of November.

7<sup>th</sup> The General Staff of the Army will present to the Ministry of War before the first of October, a project for manoeuvres of Army Divisions in which the following will participate: The General Staffs, The Commands and the necessary troops to insure the success of the army.

2. On September 24th a rumour circulated in the Government house that the submarines recently built for the Argentine Government in Europe, will not be accepted owing to faulty construction. This rumour is said to have had its source in a report just received from the Argentine Naval Commission in Europe.

3. On September 29th the new Argentine cruiser "Admirante Brown" built in Italian ship-yards, was launched in Geneva.



Current Events  
September 1929  
-----

4. The Military forces which were to have paraded on the 9th of July last, but were prevented from doing so on account of the weather, have received instructions from the Ministry of War to be in readiness for the 12th of October when the parade will take place in honour of the "Dia de la Raza". It is calculated that over 10,000 men will take part and the supreme command of the forces will be exercised by General José P. Marcilese.

5. On September 23rd, the death took place of Captain Ismael Zurueta who was in command of the cruiser "Belgrano". At the time of his death Captain Zurueta was in Liorna where he had gone to take charge of the above mentioned cruiser, being repaired and modernized in Europe. Captain Zurueta was a brother to the present Minister of Marine in Argentina.

6. On September 18th at the Círculo Militar, before a large audience of officers of the Argentine Army, there was exhibited a film of Vickers-Armstrong armaments, depicting the manufacture of the latest war material. The picture was shown under the direction of Colonel G.R.V. Kinsman, a former British Military Attaché to Chile and Brazil and who for some time was attached to the Chilean Army.

7. During the month there appeared in the press an issue which called attention to the unpleasant rumours in circulation regarding irregularities committed by certain members of the Armaments Commission which is now in Europe. No one seems to know exactly what the alleged irregularities are, but at a recent session of the Upper Chamber one of the Senators stated that he had been informed of them by Sr. M. Wauters, a former Belgium Minister. The Senator took the matter to General Costa, the head of the armaments Commission and asked him if there were any truth in the rumour, the General replying that unfortunately there was. The Senator proposed that the Minister of War be invited to explain the affair to the House either in public or secret session.

8. On September 13th in the Chamber of Deputies the Socialist member, Sr. Gonzalez Irmain raised the question of an interpellation to the Minister of War, accusing the Executive Power of not fulfilling the Military laws Nos. 4707, 9675 and 11,268. This was rejected on September 18th after heated discussions during sessions where quorums were maintained by public force.

9. On September 25th, the Senate rejected the diploma of Senator elect for Mendoza, Dr. Carlos W. Lencinas, by 14 votes to 2. This diploma has been under discussion since the opening of Congress and has taken up a great deal of the valuable time of the National Senate. Both the Province of San Juan and the Province of Mendoza are now without representation

Current Events  
September 1929

in the National Senate.

10. At a recent sitting of the Senate a resolution was passed whereby it invited the Minister of the Interior to explain to the Chamber the reasons why the Executive Power decreed Federal Intervention in the Province of Corrientes. In reply the Executive Power sent a message to the Senate stating that it did not recognize the superintendence of Congress, much less of one of its branches, in matters which it considers of its exclusive prerogative, and that it decreed the intervention in Corrientes in the exercise of the right conferred by the National Constitution during the recess of Congress.

After a brief debate on September 7th the National Senate rejected the Government Bill calling for Federal Intervention in the Province of Corrientes by 14 votes to 7. This bill was one of a group of five passed by the Chamber of Deputies in an all night sitting some time ago.

Despite the adverse sanction of the Senate it is affirmed that the Executive Power will send a Federal interventor to Corrientes "to reorganize the Executive and Legislative Powers of the Province and to restore the Republican form of Government."

11. On September 27th the Senate refused to consider a motion approved on September 24th by which the National petroleum projected law should be considered in the September 27th Session of Congress. The Senate however approved the motion that a special Committee should study the problems at issue, during the recess of Congress.

12. During the month a project was presented in the Chamber of Deputies by Sr. Manuel R. Alvarado and Dr. José M. Bustillo for the granting of the right of suffrage to all women who had attained the age of 18 years and can read and write..

13. On September 26th in the course of a 24 hour "forced" session the Chamber of Deputies sanctioned the Agricultural Rental Law, the measure calling for the establishment of a National Farmers' Bank and a bill was also sanctioned authorizing the increase of the Capital of the National Mortgage Bank to \$2,000,000,000.

14. On September 29th the Senate postponed the projected Law approved by the Chamber of Deputies for the increase of capital of the Banco Hipotecario Nacional. The reason given for this action being the status of the members of the Board, who, as it is known, are in the great majority appointed by the Executive Power during the recess of Congress and the President to date has not requested that they

Current Events  
September 1929  
-----

-4-

be approved in accordance with the Constitution.

15. The Limited Companies Bill which was passed by the Chamber of Deputies some months ago, under which the formation of private companies of limited liability, hitherto unknown in Argentina, is permitted, has received the sanction of the National Senate and will be promulgated by the Government in the course of the next week or two.

16. On September 3rd the National Senate approved the project for taking a National Live stock census in all the country. Ideas and even statistics about the numbers of live stock are so hazy and open to doubt that it is satisfactory to have the Census project duly approved, and a sum of \$500,000 assigned for its execution. It had already been passed by the Chamber of Deputies in the Sessions of 1928, but as it had fixed the month of June 1929 for carrying it out, this has been amended by the Senate which leaves the month to the option of the Executive. The Minister of Agriculture will handle the details, and it will be finished within a year of promulgation of the law. There are the usual penalties for all who refuse to supply information or who give misleading data.

17. On September 27th the Senate sanctioned the project law authorizing the Municipality to issue pavement bonds to the amount of \$150,000,000.

18. The ordinary sessions of Congress have come to an end and the Chambers have done nothing further than discuss politics. The present is about the most sterile parliamentary session in the history of the National Congress especially as regards the Senior Chamber. It is very probable that Congress will be called to extraordinary sessions to consider the project for the 1930 budget which as yet has not been presented by the Executive Power.

19. On September 30th Sr. D. Miguel A. Tanco was elected Governor for the Province of Jujuy.

20. On September 19th Senator de la Fuente presented a motion in the Senate for the appointment of a Commission of five Senators to investigate the procedure of the Alvear administration in order to verify the denouncements made by National Deputy Sr. Quiroga some time ago in the Junior Chamber.

21. On September 14th there arrived in Buenos Aires, the Mexican Aviator Colonel P. L. Sidar, who is making a good will flight through the Central and South American countries. Colonel Sidar was very well received in Buenos Aires. On September 20th he continued his flight to Montevideo.

Current Events  
September 1929  
-----

22. The Director of Posts and Telegraphs has decided to issue special commemorative postage stamps in honour of the "Dia de la Raza" and has arranged with the Mint for the printing of four million stamps of 12 cents, ten million stamps of 5 cents and four million of 2 cents value each. The stamps will be issued as from the 12th of October and they will be valid for postage until the issue is exhausted.

23. The Italian cruiser "Trento" which has been visiting Argentina, left Buenos Aires on September 11th. She was given a cordial reception socially, principally by the Italian Colony, officially the reception was passive. The calls made by her Captain on the President, Ministers of Marine, Foreign Affairs and War were not returned. The officers were widely entertained. Our Naval Attaché visited the ship in company with other Attachés. A small organized demonstration was staged by anti-facistas and Communists at the wharf during the playing of the Italian National Hymn. The demonstration was quickly broken by the police.

24. The proposed tariffs for mails to be carried by the Pan-American Airways have been accepted by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs and the only item to be completed before the inauguration of the service on October 12th is the signing of the necessary decree by Sr. Irigoyen.

25. On September 4th the New York-Rio - Buenos Aires Air Line, inaugurated their service between Buenos Aires and Chile.

26. It is stated that the Buenos Aires and Pacific Railway Company has purchased a controlling interest in the Argentine Transandine railway.

27. On September 28th the authorities of the Customs House seized, in one of the warehouses, an important consignment of silks that was being smuggled into the country in bales of wool. The authorities are making investigations to discover the authors of the attempted contraband of which the value is estimated at the sum of \$150,000.

28. During the month the authorities were advised that a launch was lying abandoned on the shores of the River Plate at Punta Chica in which, covered with rushes, 400 kilos of silk in waterproof wrappings, were found, the value of these being over \$20,000 m/n.

29. During the month the Banco de la Nación sent a further consignment of \$1,500,000 gold to New York. With the funds already sent to the same destination the new embarkment makes a total of 19,000,000 dollars consigned by the Banco de la Nación to New York since June last, for the purpose of

Current Events  
September 1929  
-----

stabilizing the exchange.

30. The Executive Power has issued a decree authorizing the Argentine Embassy in London to purchase 20,000,000 nickel coins for the casting of 10 cent pieces and 12,000,000 coins for 5 cent pieces. The coins are to be cast by the Casa de Moneda and they will be issued by the Conversion Office in exchange for paper according to the requirements of the money market so that they will cause no alteration whatever in the amount of the general fiduciary circulation.

31. According to the opinion furnished by the State Attorney, Dr. Rodriguez Larreta, in a consultation made by the Ministry of the Interior, the municipalities of the National Territories cannot contract loans without the authorization of the National Government. The consultation was made in the case of the Municipality of Resistencia, Territory of Chaco, who wished to contract a loan for pavement works in that city.

32. The American delegates to the recent Pan American Congress at Rio de Janeiro arrived in Buenos Aires on September 6th and were received by the President of the Republic during the afternoon of the same day. The Members of the delegation were well received and entertained in Buenos Aires by the various commercial and social organizations. They visited the Army Airplane factory in Cordoba and other organizations of interest. On September 15th they left Buenos Aires, for Santiago, Chile.

33. On September 13th, Major Ernesto Gonzalez Quint was appointed Military Attache to the Legation of Bolivia in Argentina, replacing Coronel Nuñez del Prado who has been retired from active service.

34. On September 17th there arrived in Buenos Aires the first Minister of Finland to be appointed to Argentina, Mons. George Achates de Gripenberg.

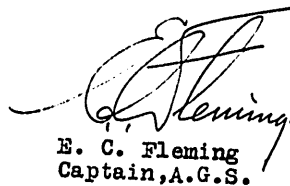
35. The Bolivian Ambassador to Buenos Aires, Dr. Checa Eguiguren has returned to his country on leave of absence.

36. The new Colombian Minister to Argentina, Dr. Pomilio Guzman has left his country to take up his duties at the head of the Legation in Buenos Aires.

-7-

Current Events  
September 1929  
-----

37. Sr. Francisco Urrojola who has up to the present time been President of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile has been appointed Chilean Ambassador to Argentina replacing Sr. Gonzalo Bulnes who has been promoted to the post of Minister of the Interior in his country.

  
E. C. Fleming  
Captain, A.G.S.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHÉ  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

2048-182

2-1

45

October 31st, 1929

4055

58

Subject: Current Events for the month of October.

To: A. C. of S., G-2. RECEIVED 6/1 A.M. DEC 5 1929

1. October 12th, "Dia de la Raza" was commemorated in the Federal Capital with the following official celebrations: A grand Military Parade at which 10,000 military and naval troops marched, a Te Deum at the Cathedral, a reception at the Government House and a gala function at the Colón Theatre.

2. During the month the military manoeuvres of the Army were held. The Aviation units carried out their practises in the vicinity of Carhué. Attached is a translation of an editorial published in the newspaper "La Prensa" on October 17th when these activities were completed. Military Attachés were not invited.

3. The Executive Power issued a decree on October 3rd through the War Department, whereby it calls to the colours the conscripts of the military class of 1909.

The number of conscripts to be called out in the different divisions of the Army is as follows:

First Division: 1385 to serve in the Navy and 4335 to serve in the Army.

Second Division: 1385 to serve in the Navy and 6552 to be incorporated in the Army.

Third Division: 2693 to be incorporated with the Navy and 5814 with the Army.

Fourth Division: 1347 to serve in the Navy and 5176 in the army.

Fifth Division: 1347 citizens to serve in the Navy and 3724 to be incorporated with the Army.

The total number of citizens called to the colours is 36,098 of whom 11,000 will serve in the Navy and 25,098 in the Army.

The date for the representation of the conscripts is fixed for the 15th of January next for those who are to serve in the Army, and for the 1st of March for those to be incorporated with the Navy.

4. With the death of Admiral Martín Guerrico, who passed away in this city on October 5th, at an advanced age, the Argentine Navy loses one of its most eminent representatives.

Born in 1838, the deceased took part in the Battle of Caseros at the age of 14 years, and seven years later he joined the Navy in which he had a brilliant career.

Current Events  
October 1929  
-----

He was the possessor of various decorations for his valuable services in the fulfillment of important missions abroad, and on the occasion of the salvage of the American vessel Mary Parker, President Grant presented him with a sword as a token of appreciation for his services.

5. On October 20th, there died in Montevideo, Uruguay, Sr. Jose Batlle y Ordonez, who occupied the Presidency of Uruguay for two periods finishing in 1904, and in 1911. After his second term of office he continued to rule as the virtual dictator of the majority group of the "Colorado" party. His biography has been forwarded under proper heading.

6. Mr. George de Gripenberg, the new Minister Plenipotentiary of Finland, was officially received on October 5th, by the President of the Republic to whom he presented his credentials.

7. It is stated that the Argentine Ambassador to Rome, Sr. Fernando Perez, is retiring for reasons of his health.

8. D. Bonifacio Pignatti Morano, Conde de Consoza, has been appointed Italian Ambassador to Argentina. He is at present head of the Italian Legation in Berne.

9. It is understood that the President of the Republic contemplates the reorganization of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps of the country in the immediate future. He will fill all the posts now vacant in the Legations and Embassies abroad. Rumour states that the probable candidates to occupy the posts of Ambassador to Washington and Rome will be Dr. Matias Mickinlay Zapiola and Gregorio Martinez respectively; and that Dr. Enrique Escalante Echague will be appointed Minister to the Argentina Legation in Holland. At the same time certain Ambassadors and Ministers who have exceeded the time limit necessary for pension will be retired from the service.

10. On October 19th, Dr. Antonio Bermejo, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation died. He had been a member of the Supreme



Current Events  
October 1929  
----

Court for 26 years the greater part of which he was President of the High Tribunal. The vacancy occurred by his death has not yet been filled.

11. It is announced that following on a consultation between the President of the Banco de la Nacion and the Minister of Finance, both of whom afterwards interviewed the President of the Republic, the Directors of the Bank decided to raise the rate on overdrafts from  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  percent. Other new rates include 6 percent for discounting promissory notes and loans; interest at 3 percent for periods in excess of 180 days.

12. The excavation work of the fifth basin of the New Port, which is being done for account and under the direction of the Compañia Italo Argentina de Electricidad has been completed.

The excavation has been done to a depth of 33 feet over a length of 900 metres by 75 metres wide, and the dredging of the ways of access will be commenced immediately by the Board of Navigation and Ports.

The new basin, which will be completed and ready for inauguration within a month, will have sufficient depth and capacity to admit the largest ships that arrive in the River Plate.

13. The Central Argentina has inaugurated a new express train from Buenos Aires to La Paz, and vice versa introduced as the "Pan-American Express", which shortens the time enroute between these two cities by 17 hours.

14. During the month several consignments of smuggled goods were seized by the customs authorities. One of these found aboard the American S.S. "WESTERN WORLD", was valued at \$10,000 and was composed of bales of silk, pearls, neckties, safety razors, etc. Another consignment of silk was discovered on board the ship "Ciudad de Montevideo", proceeding from Uruguay, and still another valued at \$50,000. was discovered by the customs officials while being landed up one of the rivers near the Federal Capital.

15. It is stated that British firms have been awarded contracts for the supply of approximately \$7,000,000 worth of rolling-stock and electrical equipment to the Ferrocarril Terminal Central de

Current Events  
October 1929  
-----

Buenos Aires (Lacroze Subway).

16. President Ibañez of Chile on October 23rd, signed a decree granting an air mail concession to the New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Line, Inc., giving them exclusive rights on twenty-five per cent of all Chilean mails to be transported over the air line of the Company from Santiago, Chile, to Buenos Aires, and to all countries on the east coast, West Indies, and United States of America.

This is the sixth exclusive contract obtained by this company in addition to operating rights and concessions granted along the routes.

17. On October 12th, the Pan-American Grace Airways Inc., inaugurated its regular air-mail and passenger services between Buenos Aires and the United States. The President of the Republic signed the decree authorizing the establishment of this air service on October 11th.

18. On October 19th, the Direction General of Posts and Telegraphs authorized Trimotor Safety Airways Inc., to inaugurate a regular air mail and passenger service between Buenos Aires, Rosario, Cordoba, Mendoza, and Santiago de Chile. The service was inaugurated on October 20th.

19. International telephone service between the two principal companies operating in Argentina, the two in Uruguay, and that in Chile was inaugurated on October 1st, over a recently installed submarine cable and a new land line from Montevideo to Colonia.

20. On October 9th, the Transradio Internacional inaugurated a service of radio telephone communications between Buenos Aires and the Cities of Milan and Turin, thereby completing the circuits already established with Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Austria, and other countries of Europe. With the inauguration of the direct service with Rome, which will take place shortly, over eight million telephone subscribers of Europe will be linked up direct with Buenos Aires.

21. On October 12th, the International Radio Company and the Union Telephone Company inaugurated a telephone circuit between Argentina and Spain.

*E. C. Fleming*  
E. C. Fleming,  
Capt. A.G.S.,  
Military Attache.

Enc. 1

MILITARY AVIATION

"LA PRENSA"

2-1

2048-182

45

DEPARTMENT

Thursday, October 17, 1929.

With yesterday's flights there came to an end, in the neighbourhood of Carhue, the bombing and firing practice that has been taking place by military airmen for instructional purposes, in which they have sought to apply modern methods, and also try out certain bombing material, acquired by the Nation some time ago.

The training referred to erroneously by some people as "manoeuvres," could hardly be so termed owing to the scantiness of the bombing material and the small number of aircraft available - only thirteen in all - but a first attempt at really practical work on the part of the fifth arm of the nation's forces, which has comprised all branches of aviation - from observation flights to aerial machine-gun work and bombing with high explosives, as well as aerophotographic and meteorological work.

Even though it be granted that when the machines first assembled at Carhue there were one or two minor accidents occasioned by the high winds prevailing at the time and poor visibility - mishaps which called for unnecessary comment on the part of the public - the subsequent stages of the programme bore evidence of an advanced state of training, both on the part of officers and personnel together with a keenness and manifest wish among those taking part to perfect themselves in this particular branch of the service.

With regard to the material at the disposal of those taking part at Carhue - only thirteen aeroplanes - it would seem that the army is inadequately found in this respect even for instruction purposes. Granted that the craft did all that was required of them and of the thirteen engaged, twelve of them returned, only one having suffered any damage of importance, it cannot be denied that the machines employed are obsolete, being those obtained when aviation first became incorporated with the national forces.

The machines in question, as is generally known, have been subjected to constant use, long-distance flights, etc., with the consequent wear and tear, with the result that they can no longer be looked upon with any great sense of security by those whose duty it is to pilot them.

From what we can gather, the satisfactory result of the evolutions we refer to have induced the authorities to establish in the neighbourhood of Carhue a permanent aviation training ground, where every year a course of instruction will

Military Aviation  
"La Prensa".

-----

take place. In this connection, we well remember when the Minister of War acquired for the nation a year or so ago some land, known as La Reserva, in Cordoba, it was the intention of the Government to establish there, rifle-butts, artillery parks, hangars, etc., but the idea never materialized.

To return to the present project of establishing a permanent training ground in Carhue, it is to be hoped that same will act as a stimulus to the authorities to modernise their machines and aviation equipment, all of them sadly in need of it, as the result of long use.

It is all the more incumbent on the authorities to do something in this respect, in view of the recent suppression of the aviation branch in Mendoza, established there for the definite purpose of high altitude training, and the abandonment of the aviation factory in Cordoba, in which latter vast sums were invested in buildings, machinery, and material, all of which have been allowed to rot, serving to prove that this branch of the service, so indispensable for defence and offence is sadly neglected here in direct contrast to the assiduous attention paid to it in neighbouring countries.

2.1  
JAN 6 2048-182 1929  
4-6  
WAR DEPARTMENT

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

November 30th, 1929.

4075

Subject: Current Events for the month of November.

To: A. C. of S., G-2. RECEIVED 6/2 7.1. JAN 6 1930

1. On November 14th, the President of the Banco Hipotecario Nacional, Sr. Norco Grovotto, tendered his resignation to the President of the Nation due to the fact that he had been elected candidate of the Radical Personalista Party for Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires in the elections held on December 1st.

2. According to rumours in circulation the Budget Bill for 1930, which should be discussed by Congress in the course of the next few weeks will call for the expenditure of more than one thousand million pesos.

3. The request of the Trimotor Safety Airways Inc., soliciting the same concession of guarantees and privileges accorded to the railway companies for the installation of a net work of aerial communications between different places in the interior of the country and neighbouring countries, has caused the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to address a message to the Minister of the Interior on this subject.

The Director of Posts and Telegraphs openly states that they are against the principals set forth by the above mentioned company, and maintain that just as it would be inadvisable to give a steamship company exclusive rights to a certain maritime or river route, neither could such a privilege be given to a company of aerial transportation not only because of the similarity of both services, but because it is not suitable to jeopardize by such rules, the development of aerial transportation in the country, which may in the near future acquire an unexpected expansion.

The reasons given in the foregoing, the Note adds, should impose a categorical refusal on anything that implies an exclusive monopoly concession.

4. On November 29th, the Trimotor Safety Airways inaugurated a passenger and mail air route from Buenos Aires to Salta with connections for La Paz, Bolivia, via Lloyd Boliviana Airways.

5. A French commercial mission, headed by Dr. Pierre Colin-Jeannel, arrived in Buenos Aires on November 19th, and is

Recent Events  
November 1929

making an aeronautical tour through the countries of South America, under the patronage of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Public Works, Commerce and Manufacturing, and Aviation, of France. They are flying a Lorraine Dietrich 450 H.P. machine.

6. The National Government has issued a decree ordaining that the Ministry of Public Works, through the intermediary of the General Board of Bridges and Roads, shall in future undertake the construction and reconstruction of all telegraph lines through the country. The Ministry of Public Works will also arrange with the Ministry of War for co-operation of the latter's technical units in such constructions.

7. The Director General of Navigation and Ports has made arrangements for the new dredger 2170 to be employed constantly on the channel giving access to the port of Buenos Aires for the purpose of maintaining a regular depth of 30 feet.

As it will be impossible for the 2170 to make the first dredge down to this depth on certain sections of the channel, assistance will be given for a few weeks by another dredger of a special type.

8. The National Treasury, acting under orders received after a special Cabinet meeting, has handed \$2,000,000 to the Administration of the State Railways for the purpose of financing new surveys and covering certain expenses connected with lines now under construction.

It is stated in Government House that an additional \$10,000,000 will be handed to the same department for the continuation of work on the lines from Barranqueras to Metan, Formosa to Embarcacion, Cordoba to La Puerta, and San Juan to Jaahal.

9. It is stated in the press that a contract for the "Tunel de las Raices", which is destined to make a second railway connection between Argentina and Chile, has recently been placed with the Buenos Aires firm of Lavenas & Poli, the sum involved being \$16,400,000 Chilean pesos. The contract calls for completion in three years, and the Argentine entrance to the tunnel would be south of Buenos Aires about opposite Bahia Blanca. One of the principal advantages of the new route would be a direct broad gauge connection between Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires without change of coaches.

The principal object of the route would be what virtually amounts to an exchange of produce between the two neighbouring republics. Timber and Coal, in which Chile is very rich, would be conveyed to Argentina, and cattle and agricultural products would go from Argentina to Chile. For obvious reasons it would be uneconomical to construct the tunnel for passenger service only.

Current Events  
November 1929  
- - - -

10. A number of cases of attempted smuggling of silk through the Custom House in connection with consignments landed for reembarkation having come to light of late, the Administrator of the Custom House has adopted measures tending to prevent recurrence of the offence in the future.

The first of these is an order under which persons withdrawing merchandise from the Custom sheds for reembarkation to neighbouring countries must in future obtain a certificate of final delivery from the Argentine Consul at the port of destination, which must be handed to the captain or purser of the vessel on which it was transported.

In the event of the certificate in question not being presented to the Custom House authorities in Buenos Aires within a stipulated period steps will be taken to have the matter adjusted. The periods for notification will be: Uruguay 15 days, Brazil and Paraguay 30 days, counting from the date of re-embarkation.

11. The sub-committee of the City Council appointed to examine the subway schemes presented by a British consortium, and the Cia. de Proyectos y Construcciones de Madrid, after studying the respective proposals carefully during nearly two months, made several alterations to the proposals, and on the 29th instant submitted them to the interested parties for their approval.

12. The new Municipal Slaughter house, which has been under construction in Buenos Aires for over two years, has been inaugurated.

13. On November 4th, the workmen of the railway companies, after having submitted a request for improvement of their conditions, decided to protest until such time as their petitions would be granted. Their protests took the form of a general stoppage for 15 minutes in the busy hours of the day. This was later increased to 30 minutes, which delay caused much inconvenience and delay in the suburban traffic.

The demands of the railway guards, signalmen, level crossing keepers and others were tendered some time ago to procure a minimum wage scale, which was not granted.

After several days elapsed the Union Ferroviaria decided to suspend all further direct action, and resume amicable negotiations. At present conferences are being held between the representatives of the Union Ferroviaria and the railway representatives for the solution of the differences. No settlement has as yet been arrived at.

Current Events  
November 1929.

14. Partial strikes have been occurring in the Port of Buenos Aires, and these seem likely to be the forerunner of a serious national dockside conflict in the near future. The strikes in question have their origin in a single cause: the refusal of Union workers to recognize the right of non-union men to work.

15. During the month Municipal Elections were held in 96 out of the 110 districts in to which the Province of Buenos Aires is divided. On December 1st elections will be held for Governor and Vice-Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires. These elections are important due to the fact that Buenos Aires is the foremost Province in the country.

16. On November 28th, Dr. Gilberto E. Miguez, appointed Federal Interventor to the Province of Corrientes, by President Irigoyen left Buenos Aires to take over the reorganization of the Government of that Province. A large crowd witnessed his departure. Loud protests have been made in the intervened Province, and by all parties not affiliated with President Irigoyen. The National Sonate is studying the matter, which it considers absolutely unconstitutional as the Intervention has not been approved by Congress, and is all the President's private doing.

17. On November 10th, Dr. Carlos W. Lencinas, ex-Governor of Mendoza, was shot by a group of Political enemies after leaving the railway station upon his arrival in that town. (Please make a note of this on "Who's who card".

On November 15th, the President of the Republic sent the Minister of Justice, Dr. Juan de la Campa, with full powers to investigate the situation in Mendoza. On November 21st, Dr. de la Campa announced his intention to return to Buenos Aires, as he considered his mission fulfilled. However, nothing was cleared up during his stay. The enemies of Irigoyen hold that this crime had been planned in order to get rid of a strong political enemy. A mass meeting was organized as a protest in the City of Buenos Aires, and attracted more than 5,000 people who shouted "Down with the Irigoyenist dictatorship - Let Irigoyen resign".

18. It is expected that during the next few days the Interventor to Santa Fe, Dr. Lisandro Salas, will take over the reorganization of the powers of that Province.

19. The political and legislative situation of the Country, has been reported under separate heading.

20. Acting upon orders from the Ministry of Marine, a naval division will be formed under the command of Captain Jorge Campos Urquiza for a three months cruise in the southern waters



Current Events.  
November 1929.

of the Republic, including the Patagonian ports and canals and Tierra del Fuego. The division is to be ready by December 16th, and on January 6th, will start from the naval base at Rio Santiago.

/21. On November 25th, the Coast Guard, General Belgrano, which has been modernized in Europe, arrived in Buenos Aires. The remains of Captain Ismael Gurneta, who died in Italy while on a mission in that country, were brought to Argentina to be buried, on board this boat.

/22. Doctor Juan F. Urrejola, the new Ambassador of Chile in Argentina, arrived here on November 25th.


/23. On November 14th, Sir Malcolm Robertson, British Ambassador to Argentina resigned his post in Buenos Aires and retired from the Diplomatic Service. He sailed for England two days later. The reason given for his resignation was the necessity of attending to personal and family affairs.

24. Engineer Enrique Butty was elected Director of the National University of Buenos Aires for the period 1930-1934 on November 25th.

/25. On November 1st, there arrived in Buenos Aires the new Colombian Minister to Argentina, Dr. Pomponia Guzman.

/26. Count Pignotti Morani di Custoza was appointed, on November 5th, Italian Ambassador to Argentina. He is at present Minister at Berne.

/27. General Frank De Pinedo has been appointed Aeronautical Attache to the Italian Embassy in Argentina.



E.C. Fleming,  
Capt. A.G.S.  
Military Attache.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE  
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

2-1 2048-182  
FEB 1 1930  
47  
DEPARTMENT

December 31st, 1929.

4086

Subject: Current Events for the month of December.

To: A. C. of S., G-2.

RECEIVED 0/2 11. D. FEB 1 1930

1. On December 19th, the Direction of Civil Aviation inaugurated in the New Port of the Capital a temporary landing ground in a space ceded by the Direction of Navigation and Ports. In the future regular services of mail and passenger planes will land and take-off from this field. This will save a considerable amount of time in transportation as at present passengers and mail have to travel some distance from the city to arrive at the fields.

2. During the month the Director of Civil Aviation Sr. Salvador A. Babastru made a flight of 3000 kilometers on a tour of inspection to the various aeroclubs in the interior of the country to study their requirements for improvement.

3. The Buenos Aires Southern Railway has suspended work on the construction of the new grain elevator at Ingeniero White. The reasons for this action was the lack of guarantees for the personal safety of their employees against the continued attacks of the strikers, this step being taken after the murder of one of their directing Engineers.

The suspension, in addition to leaving hundreds of men without employment will delay the completion of an undertaking in which the Buenos Aires Southern Railway is investing more than \$16,000,000 m/n. The stoppage may be prolonged for the period of a year.

4. On December 31st, Dr. Lisandro Salas, appointed Federal Interventor to the Province of Santa Fe several months ago, left Buenos Aires to take over the reorganization of the Provincial Government. The decree of intervention was signed by the President of the Republic on April 19th of this year.

Current Events  
December 1929  
-----

5. On December 24th, Dr. Irigoyen's life was attempted as he was driving to the Government house by an Italian anarchist. The subject has been covered under separate report.

6. On December 14th, a small army of Students marched upon the premises of the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires, and took possession of the building, and, in the course of a meeting, dismissed the Dean and Secretary of the Faculty, Dr. Ramos and Dr. Ezarragaray, naming Dr. Julio V. Gonzalez and Dr. Lobato Ramayan in their stead. They ignored the entreaties of the authorities to abandon their stronghold for over 24 hours. The Senate of the University of Buenos Aires decided to intervene the Department. Later it was decided that the students who took part in these incidents should be proceeded against for resisting the law when called upon to open the door of the building by the Federal Judge Dr. Jantus. It is understood that while the proceedings will be taken to the Criminal Court none of the accused will be taken into custody provided they present themselves when called upon to do so.

7. During the month two large consignments of silk were seized by the Custom House authorities as they were being smuggled into the country. The value of the silk amounted to \$35,000.m/n and \$20,000.m/n respectively.

8. Under date of December 4th, the President signed a decree authorizing the Ministry of Finance to issue \$70,000,000 worth of Credito Argentino Interno (1927) Bonds. It may be recalled in this connection that a legislative measure sanctioned two years ago authorized the issue of \$458,000,000 of these bonds, and the \$70,000,000 which will now be placed on the market will be used, chiefly, to cover expenses already incurred for diverse purposes, the money for which was advanced by the Bank of the Nation.

9. The Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires on December 3rd, signed a decree authorising the issue of \$4,000,000 worth of 6 per cent Paving Bonds.

This issue will constitute the second series of a total issue authorised by the Provincial Legislature of \$26,000,000.

10. On December 19th, five months behind the time limit fixed by the Constitution, the Argentine Government sent its 1930 Budget Bill to Congress. The Bill simply calls for the continuance of the estimates for the current year.

Current Events  
December 1929

11. Almost simultaneously with the National Administration the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires sent its Budget Bill for 1930 to the La Plata Legislature on December 21st.

After commenting on the favourable financial situation of the Province, the Message accompanying the Bill referred briefly to the necessity for increased sums being set aside for certain purposes - chiefly public works - and expressed the desire of the Administration to leave everything in as orderly a manner as possible for the new Government to take over in the month of March.

The total expenditure called for in the Budget is \$135,001,765, as against \$133,223,000 in the year now ending.

The Budget was approved on December 31st, with some alterations. The final form called for an expenditure of \$105,884,200 m/n.

12. In accordance with the Provincial Constitution the counting of the votes for Governor and Vice-Governor of Buenos Aires in the elections which took place on December 1st, will not take place until January 2nd, 1930.

13. After having passed a vote of censure on the President of the Republic on November 30th, the National Senate on December 2nd, passed another resolution strongly condemning the attitude of the Vice-President, Dr. Enrique Martinez, for his failure to communicate to Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez, Minister of the Interior, the result of the division on an interpellation motion of ten days before. The resolution was carried by fifteen votes.

The report presented by the Constitutional Affairs Committee on the matter, after calling attention to the right of the Legislature to require the presence of Cabinet Ministers for the purpose of answering questions, declared that it would "view with pleasure the efforts of the Vice-President of the Republic to act in a proper and Constitutional manner in his capacity as president of the Senate", and, at the same time, declared him to have "placed himself outside the Constitution" by his failure to transmit the interpellation minute.

14. The Senate gave its sanction on December 3rd, to the Bank Employees' Pension project, which thus becomes law, having previously been approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

15. In order to protect the local ironwork industry the Minister of Finance has prohibited the export of old iron from the country.

Current Events  
December 1929

16. It is announced that the construction of the proposed new road from La Plata to Berisso would be commenced forthwith, it having been estimated that the work will cost approximately \$590,000.

The Provincial Government will direct the construction, as well as the immediate repair of more than 200 kilometres of roads within its territory.

17. A Presidential decree ordering railway companies to give their workshop staffs an annual holiday was published on December 18th, and established that the holidays should be accorded during the current month. The measure will cost the railways approximately \$1,000,000 per annum.

The decree settles one of the points included in the railway workers' demands for improved conditions and the minimum wage for those not already receiving it. The others are still under discussion between the companies and the Union Ferroviaria, with little chance, it is stated, of them being conceded.

In connection with this decree the representatives of the railways have sent a communication to Dr. Jose B. Abalos, the Minister of Public Works, stating that the terms of the decree have been put into force immediately.

18. During the month the Ministry of Public Works issued a decree of the National Executive Power approving the scheme for the construction of a dam and irrigation works at Rio Segundo, Province of Cordoba. The scheme has been prepared by the Board of Irrigation. It will involve an outlay of ten million pesos paper.

19. The National Treasury on December 27th, handed over to the Police Department the sum of \$5,040,533, with which to return contributions towards the Police Pensions Fund paid in by constables and firemen since the scheme was commenced.

The return of the money was the outcome of negotiations entered into with the Minister of the Interior more than eight months ago.

20. Engineer Enrique Zuleta, Under Secretary of Public Works, was appointed to represent the Argentine Government at the Third Congress of South American Railways which met on December 6th at Santiago de Chile.

21. During the month General Severo Toranza, Inspector General of the Army, was appointed President of the qualifying committee for promotions in the Army. General Basilio Pertine was appointed representative of the personnel in accordance with Law 9675 before this Committee, which will

Current Events  
December 1929  
-----

begin its task immediately, qualifying the personnel up for promotion during the current year.

22. On December 2nd, the Argentine training ship "President Sarmiento" docked in La Plata on her return from her 29th cruise lasting several months.

23. On December 14th, the new Chilean Ambassador to Argentina, Sr. Francisco de Urrejola, presented his credentials to the President of the Republic.

24. The Rural Economy and Statistical Office has issued the Government's first estimate of cereal and linseed production for 1929-30. The wheat production shows a 50% decrease as compared with the figures of the last crop. It is calculated that the wheat production will be 3,896,637 tons and the linseed production 1,412,506 tons, which is about 700,000 tons less than the figures for last crop. The oats crop is expected to render 987,305 tons, the barley 366,058 tons, rye 119,980 tons and birdseed 12,209 tons.

*E. C. Fleming*  
E. C. Fleming,  
Capt. A.G.S.  
Military Attache.